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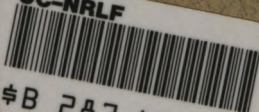
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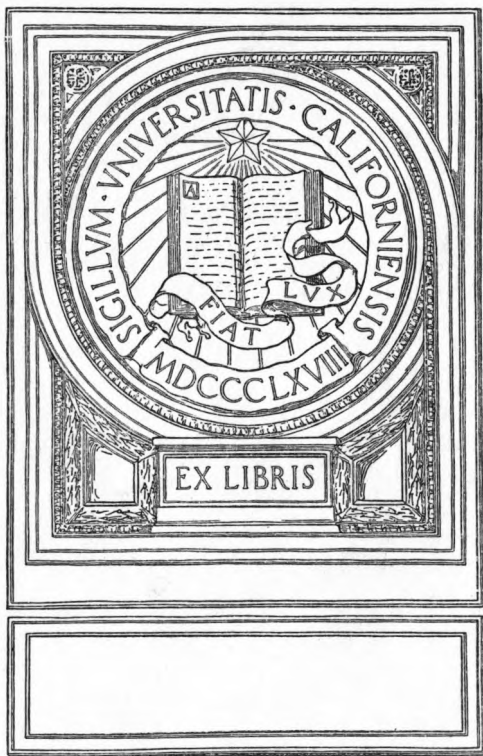
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Fourth Edition.

A

ROMANCE

OF

THE SEA-SERPENT,

OR

THE ICHTHYOSAURUS.

AND

A COLLECTION OF THE ANCIENT AND MODERN AUTHORITIES,
WITH LETTERS FROM DISTINGUISHED MERCHANTS
AND MEN OF SCIENCE.

"If we have unearned luck
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long."

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Act V., Sc. 2.

"But chain ten thousand fathoms down
The sluggish calm below."

J. T. FIELDS.

BY EUGENE BATCHELDER.

CAMBRIDGE:

PUBLISHED BY JOHN BARTLETT.

1850.

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TO THE
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P R E F A C E .

THE Sea-Serpent, or Ichthyosaurus, is a Massachusetts fish, recognized as such in more than one work on Ichthyology. Its habits are, therefore, worthy of investigation. It is presumed that two thousand persons in New England have seen the Serpent, or at least suppose that they have seen him, which is equally satisfactory. The author, not having had the good fortune to enroll himself among this favored number, does not pretend to give any opinion with regard to the animal, but simply offers the result of his investigations on this vexed question, and leaves it to the reader to decide for himself. This romance, written in an off-hand way, is designed to show in a more prominent light some of the peculiar traits in the character of this Saurian. The author and the printer have done their best to make it prose ; if the reader makes anything else of it, like Andrew Jackson, he must take the responsibility. I am deeply indebted to Professor Agassiz and Amos Lawrence, Esq., for their valuable letters on this subject, which will be found under their proper head. The designs for the engravings were made by Lieut. H. C. Flagg, U. S. N., drawn by Billings, and engraved by Marsh.

CAMBRIDGE, Aug. 4, 1849.

TO ALL THOSE WHO
RESIDE
AT THE SEA-SIDE,
PRESIDE
AT THE FIRE-SIDE,
OR RIDE
ON THE BLUE TIDE
OVER
THE OCEAN WIDE,

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
BY

THE AUTHOR.

M163330

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THE SEA-SERPENT.

COIL I.

“ I fear these stubborn lines lack power to move ;

These numbers will I tear, and write in prose.”

Love's Labor 's Lost, Act IV., Scene 3.

This Coil introduces the Ichthyosaurus : from this introduction, the reader, if he dislikes the want of straightforwardness in the character of his new acquaintance, may easily recoil.

I.

IN serpentine mazes this story will stray, to scare you by night, and alarm you by day ; if you read it at eve when the bat slowly flits, it may possibly frighten you out of your wits, and unless you 've strong nerves, just throw down the book, and never once dare in its pages to look.

I promise you here, and I give you my word, that though some of the scenes may seem vastly absurd, and you smile, — but perhaps in the midst of your grin, if you 're fishing, his Snake-ship will just suck you in ; or perchance, sitting safe on a sea-beaten rock, and of such beasts as Sea-Serpents making a mock, and telling the ladies who sit by your side, that o'er the blue waves you have sailed far and wide, full many strange sights in the ocean have seen, — “ But Sea Serpents, — bless me ! I 'm not quite so green ! Pontoppidan,¹ skippers, may say what they please ; when they prove it, I 'll own that the moon is green cheese,” — then just starting up from that wave rolling in, you see first the back and then a great fin. O horror of horrors ! with red glaring eyes, his head and some yards of his body will rise, and seize you, and shake you, his fangs taste your gore, while you shriek, and the aid of the ladies implore, and convulsively grasp at the rocks and the shore ; but he 's got you ; with joy he is wagging his tail ; he holds you aloft ;

the ladies, all pale, are fainting and screaming, and tearing their hair ; your sister sits mute in an utter despair ; fair Fanny is lying quite cold on the rock, and Mary, so sudden and dreadful the shock, has gone off in hysterics, while Alice the gay, half frightened to death, is running away.

II.

A moment, — he 's gone ! Deep, deep 'neath the wave, he will dine on you safe in his pearl-spangled cave, while the lady you loved, and who sat by your side, has plunged from the rock and sunk 'neath the tide.

I told you, dear reader, how shocking 't would be, but that 's nothing to what you will by and by see. I don't like to be horrid, but, somehow or other, I 'm convinced that this serpent is more than half-brother to a person whom I for the world would not mention, though I own in the last line that was my intention ; yet perhaps he is not, but still I believe that the serpent who humbugged our good mother Eve was at least sec-

●

ond-cousin to this one, and he, I fear, was n't much better than' such beasts should be.

III.

If you dare to go down to the beach all alone, the ladies will tell what a hero you've grown ; or if for a swim after tea you incline, when the moon on the waves makes swimming divine, you will think — O, how often I've thought so before ! — “ If his Snakeship should come, why, my last swim is o'er ” ; and though I can't prove it, I have n't a doubt, that some of those men who so boldly strike out in the surf, and who never come up from the waves, find *something more fearful* than watery graves. However, the story that I'm going to tell you is one that the bookstores wont soon again sell you. 'T will be funny and horrid, and horrid and funny, and you'll laughingly own that the worth of your money you've had, for 't will teach you this lesson, — to take at the sea-side great care, lest you're caught by the snake !²

•

IV.

To the merchant, the sailor, and every one who goes down on the deep, or has business to do upon the great waters, — to these let me say, I think it quite likely the serpent in play has sunk many a ship on the wide-heaving main, and ate up the crew, for fear they 'd explain to the owners how 't was, — how it all came to happen. So he swallowed the Cook, and topped off with the “Cap'en.”

Sometimes I believe, and sometimes I doubt, if there is such a beast as I 'm writing about ; yet this I will leave to your own common sense, for you are safe on this question to be on the fence.

COIL II.

"The Ocean scarce spoke louder with his swell,
Than breathes his mimic murmurer in the shell."

BYRON, *The Island*, Canto II.

"Strange things come up to look at us,
The masters of the deep."

SOWO, *The Return of the Admiral*.

Om Gode-Ormen veed jeg ey nogen Bæstfeed,

Jeg haaber ham aldrig med Dgnene feed,

Begierer ey heller den Xere ;

Dog Klender jeg maase, fom mig have fogt,

Hvis ord jeg og giver sandfaerdelig Magt,

Hau maa ret forsaerdelig baere. 3

PETER DASS'S *Description of Norland*, A. D. 1749.

I.

THE stars on the tranquil sea are beaming ; —
each brilliant seems set in the depths below,
as you lean o'er the taffrail, idly dreaming that
the firmament shines where the billows glow.

II.

So silent the night, so calm, so fair, so easy
the yacht through the ocean swung, that you

seemed to be sailing the seas of air, in a patent balloon from a comet flung. Four figures, enjoying their mild cigars, on the quarter-deck in silence sat, too much engaged in watching the stars to care for a bit of pleasant chat. The smoke that the idle smokers blew lazily round them slowly rolled, or, lingering, tinged with cerulean hue the swinging mainsail's drooping fold.

Near them, a little abaft the hatch, a group of ladies motionless lean o'er her painted sides, the stars to watch, perfectly charmed by the stilly scene.

White was her deck, snow-white her sails, that idly swung with the heaving swell, fitted to catch the summer gales or "the wind of the winter night" repel; beauteous the curve of her arrowy prow, which oft has danced through the seething foam, where the figure of Hope like a look-out now seemed watching the light that told of home.

III.

Light were her spars, yet not too light for the snowy cloud she sometimes spread, when, swift as the soaring sea-bird's flight, away, away from the fleet she fled. Swift, O swift, must the rapid yacht be, that can catch the Hope, the Queen of the Sea !

The trim-looking tar who stood at the wheel, watching the pennant which idly hung, the spell of the twilight hour could feel, and forgot the strain that he sometimes sung.

Forward, the men — a dashing set — on the heel of the bowsprit half reclined, wishing a breeze would the ocean fret, yet still to their lot seemed half resigned.

They were off Nahant, and far away as your eye could stretch, or the sailors see the waters of our glorious bay, held many a tall ship lazily ; — ship, and boat, and schooner, and all, lazily rise and lazily fall, as slowly, gracefully, roll on roll, the ocean heaves from pole to pole.

IV.

But see ! through the waves what cometh here,
with its smoke, and flame, and glittering light, —
like a demon burst loose from another sphere,
to career till morn through the shades of night ?

On, on, like a king it walks the waves ! See
how its glare illumines the sky ! Neptune and all
his hosts are slaves, when the glorious steamer
dashes by !

Lightly, and brightly, on she speeds, by the
yacht becalmed, and the tall ship, — ah ! little
the calm or gale she heeds, — away she shoots
like a shooting star !

This broke the spell. Enchanted they woke
from the slumberous stillness the hour threw
around them. Yet first the ladies spoke, — but
that, you know, is nothing new.

V.

“ This is the hour I truly love,” said a musical
voice in accents low ; “ so calm below, so clear
above, while the waves like burnished mirrors

glow ! For O, how still is the summer sea, when the stars shine out and the sunset fades, giving place, with its gorgeous drapery, to the silver moon and the evening shades ! ” “ Ah, true, Miss Percy ! this charms you, then ? ” said Hunt, as he stepped to the maiden’s side, and tossed the cigar, that he smoked with the men, into the gently heaving tide. Perchance for *your* sake I might bear the sluggish calm, and the silent seas, but O ! I had much rather dare the mountain wave and the ringing breeze. There ’s far more danger lingering here, than when, close-reefed, we are lying to ; but, ladies, I would not cause a fear, so, Forbes, we will have a song from you.” Dick Forbes *could* sing, and you may be sure, at Newport, where they for weeks had been, his light guitar and his songs from Moore had delighted the ladies and teased the men. With a nonchalant air his guitar he strung, and this was the song that Dick Forbes sung.

SONG.

I.

“ WHEN twilight dews are falling soft
Upon the rosy sea,

I watch the star whose beam so oft
Has lighted me to thee ;
And thou, too, on that orb so clear,
Ah ! dost thou gaze at even,
And think, though lost for ever here,
Thou 'lt yet be mine in heaven ?

II.

“ There 's not a garden walk I tread,
There 's not a flower I see,
But brings to mind some hope that 's fled,
Some joy I 've lost with thee ;
And still I wish that hour was near,
When, friends and foes forgiven,
The pains, the ills, we 've wept through here,
May turn to smiles in heaven ! ”

O, soothing and sweet is the sounding strain that Moore has wed' to immortal verse ! for songs so good we shall look in vain, although we are often bored with worse. A murmuring hum of applause went round, while Forbes was tuning a recreant string, and the gentlemen there, as in duty bound, were begging Madame Passo to sing. She sang from “ Lucia ” a little gem. Hushed while

she sings the group remain ; at the close, a mental diadem from the circle there she is sure to gain.

The song was o'er. — A strain arose from the deck of a schooner floating near. So still that hour of calm repose, each word sank deep on the listener's ear, and mingling with the manly tone, a maiden's voice was gently heard : upfloating to their Father's throne, this soft petition was preferred.

I.

“ Day unto day doth utter speech,
And night to night Thy voice makes known ;
Through all the earth, where thought may reach,
Is heard the glad and solemn tone,
And worlds, beyond the farthest star
Whose light hath reached the human eye,
Catch the high anthem from afar,
That rolls along immensity.

II.

“ O holy Father, 'mid the calm
And stillness of the evening hour,
We, too, would lift our solemn psalm
To praise thy goodness and thy power ;

For over us, as over all,
Thy tender mercies still extend,
Nor vainly shall the contrite call
On thee, their Father and their Friend." *

Dick Forbes could sing nothing so good as that, so he tuned his guitar with a careless air, and, sighing, declared the B string flat, and wondered what maid in the schooner there, possessed such voice, such feeling and skill, and who in the world the man was who sang with the maid and kept time so ill ; — he was sure he could teach *him* a thing or two. "That 's malice prepense," cried the gay Miss Wood ; "I never heard better time or tone ; — excuse me, but pray, Sir, be so good, ere you criticize others, to mend your own." Miss Wood was one of those fairies who can say whatever they choose in a certain way ; when you gaze on her face, you are more than man, if you dare to dispute her magic sway.

Forbes felt all this, so he didn't speak, for he knew in a minute again she 'd turn and ask him to

* "A Psalm of Night." — W. H. Burleigh.

come some day next week, that difficult passage in "Norma" to learn. So he whistled an air, and tuned a string, as Miss Wood approached and demanded when he was coming that little song to bring, that he wrote for her in the woodland glen. "You would n't care if you heard it?" "No, do sing it." "Yes, some time, not to-night, for I rather think I must go below, I've a cold." "Well, really, it must be slight, for you never before sung half so well as you did just now in 'Twilight Dews.' You know, Miss Prince, and you, Miss Bell, how well he sung, — now don't refuse." "But pray, Miss Wood, say how can I, who keep, as you say, such poor time, to dare to please you *even try*, — for now you'll scold both tune and rhyme? Ah! here's my sister; she will do better than I should think of doing. I feel, like indigo, somewhat blue, but Sue will sing without much suing."

Sue Forbes! — can pen and ink reveal the lovely shapes that haunt the earth, and through our morning visions steal, with smiles of love and

eyes of mirth? Can you picture the forms on the canvas spread at the International Rooms of Art, or draw figures with ink, either black or red, that like these seem ready to speak, or start from their gilded frames, and ask you to take a ticket in one of the raffles there, or tell you Miranda would blush to wake and find her bosom so cold and bare? Can you take the dome of the State House down, and wash it clean in the Fountain pond, — bring Bunker Hill Monument into town, or a comet secure from the eyes of Bond? Can you tell how many men there are go out of town ere the first of May, or why they had much rather by far their tax in the country than city pay? — In short, can you tell why the old South End has gone up town two miles or so? how far Boston would extend, provided you'd give it room to grow? or when the new balloon will start, that's bound for San Francisco Bay, or when any true and noble heart will cease to honor Harry Clay? When you tell me this, to you I'll tell some other things that are strange

and true, but at present just imagine how well Sue Forbes * would have sung this song to you.

I.

THERE is no rest. The sky above us beaming
Sees angry storm-clouds scud athwart its face,
Old earth whirls on, with countless millions
teeming,
Each jostling forward in the busy race.
There is no rest. Each past remembrance
thronging,
Calls from our memory's chamber secret
sighs,
While the dim future, with its heartfelt longing,
Seems crowded thick with awful mysteries.

* "I cannot describe her, but wait for a while,
Till you find one face most fair ;
When that loved one's moments you strive to beguile,
And gaze on her features in hopes of a smile,
Imagine Sue Forbes is there."

H.

II.

There is no rest. Our souls are but beginning
The lengthening race that they have here to run ;
Eternity 's the earthly goal we 're winning ;
Death is not rest, for life with death is won.
There is no rest. Forgetful and forgetting
That soul must be, that thinks to find it here.
Why e'er regret what is beyond regretting, —
That the true rest is in another sphere ?

Miss Wood and Miss Bell demanded again
that Forbes the promised song should sing. So
Dick, who in truth was somewhat vain and good-
natured, swept each sounding string ; then, hum-
ming a moment, he caught the air, and sang this
song to the ladies there : —

SONG.

I.

GIVE me the girl with courage strong
To curb the restive steed, —

To cheer my heart with thrilling song,
When I of rest have need.
To care for me for something more
Than idle friends may know,
And love me better than before,
Should streams of sorrow flow.

II.

And ah ! should I this treasure find,
From selfish passions free, —
A girl of frank, ingenuous mind, —
Then what ought I to be ?
I 'd be, — O, never doubt my word, —
Could I my love discover
By *billet-doux* or carrier-bird,
I 'd be that maiden's lover.

“ You whispered of danger even here,” said Miss Percy, when the song was done ; “ but what have I in this world to fear, when so near the heart of my dearest one ? Beside dear Hunt, at the sunset hour, I breathed a prayer to the God of all,

who rules the world, that his eye of power, which seeth even the sparrow's fall, would look with mercy on us to-night, and save us safe from storm and harm. I almost deemed, when the clouds grew bright and the rainbow came, that this silent calm was perhaps an answer to the prayer that I in faith had breathed to Heaven ; for I seemed to hear, through the silent air, a spirit whisper, — ‘ Your wish is given ! ’ ”

VI.

“ Ah, Mary, long I ’ve known thy power ; thy gentle heart can mine subdue ; I own I thought, in the battle hour, that perhaps I owed my life to you ; for when beneath San Juan’s walls, the shot and shells full thickly flew, too well my glancing mind recalls how through the fight I thought of you, and you for me, fair lady mine, unknowing still my danger, here were bending humbly at the shrine, where, but for thee, perchance my bier had rested, — but thy faith prevailed. You know the rest. But who can know what guards the

sailor, when, unmailed, he bares his bosom to the foe ? In love's unwritten history there is a sympathetic chain, — links formed and forged in mystery, that maids nor poets can explain.

VII.

“ I know your power, but cannot think that even the winds and waves obey ; though 't is said that the king of beasts will shrink, and turn from the path of a maid away ; — 't is a fancy wild. But He who spread the waters of the glorious sea has stilled them, — you have often read the miracle of Galilee.

“ 'T is true I spoke of danger near ; I was thinking of stories strange and old, that well might blanch the cheek with fear, by the ancient Scalds to the Vikings told. High up among the northern seas, where glittering icebergs coldly shine, their bards sang sagas wild like these, while bearded sea-kings quaffed their wine. I love right well their Runic lore, and often in my boyhood's days have gathered, from its ample store of mystic rites and

stirring lays, wild legends of those stormy seas ; — traditions strange, that stranger men, borne thither by the tide and breeze, have told, which then were told again unto their children, until years had made them seem almost divine, — till e'en a nation's hopes and fears bent humbly at tradition's shrine."

" But why to-night, dear Hunt, should you, when all around is calm and still, look bluer than the ocean's blue, or feel this sense of coming ill ? "

VIII.

" Ah, Mary, have you never heard of a monster vast in the northern seas, who lives below when the waves are stirred by the dashing storm or the ringing breeze, but in the calm, when the storm is done, and the waves are still on the summer sea, comes up to bask in the noontide sun, and play on the tranquil ocean free ? So monstrous his size, and so vast his length, vessels and boats are naught to him ; he laughs at the ship and her boasted strength ; he is king of the sea ; the fishes that swim, when they meet him, are fright-

ened half to death ; he drives them before him in mighty shoals ; they flee till they 're fairly out of breath ; when they see his eyes that blaze like coals, they wish for the shore, or the fisherman's hook, or anything else they dreaded before, and cast at the serpent a piteous look, that might touch the heart of Agassiz. But *he* only takes, from a school of a thousand fishes, for the school at Cambridge, some two or three, and preserves them safe in fine glass dishes ; some day next week, if you please, we 'll go to Cambridge, where I have sometimes been, and see those fishes set in a row, and converse with those grave and learned men, who wield so well the glittering steel, chase savage foes from gloomy dens, and make the world most truly feel the might, the power of *good steel*—pens !

IX.

“Not so with the serpent. He eats up some twenty-five dozen of sharks for dinner, and after that on a man would sup, or seize a boat and

the crew that's in her ; he scares the dolphin and frights the whale ; the sword-fish flees when he sees him coming ; the brave sea-lion himself turns pale, and feels a fear that's quite benumbing. All the huge creatures that swim in the sea had rather by half keep out of his way. In vain the small fry madly flee ; he makes of them an easy prey. Ah, Mary, I saw him once, when I made to the North that fearful trip, — I'm glad you were not with me."

"Why, what nonsense you're talking!" said Captain Skip, who was walking the deck near where they stood, and happened some words to overhear about the serpent, and what he could do in the way of inspiring fear. Captain Skip was one of those bluff sort of men, who always say what they have to say. Hunt felt 't was no use to be angry then, for he knew it was only the captain's way. "I know," says the captain, "they tell strange tales of serpents vast in the briny deep, as long, perhaps, as two or three whales ; if it's true, they must at the bottom keep, and

only come up say once in a while, to see what 's going on above. It 's enough to make a lobster smile, to hear you telling the maid you love there is any kind of danger here from any such fabulous fish as this ; I 've sailed the sea for many a year, and never saw one. Nor do I wish to see one ; for if such things be, they are dangerous beasts, most certainly."

X.

" Well, captain," cried Hunt, " I was going to tell a little story of danger and fear, of what once some old North-traders befell ; I heard it when I was there in the year eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, and I tell you the ' tale as 't was told to me.' 'T was sworn to by witnesses ten or eleven, all men of undoubted veracity."

All on deck approached to hear the tale which Hunt began to relate ; some of the crew stood respectfully near, for they 'd anchored there at the hour of eight ; the sails were furled, for the trip was through, so of course the men had nothing to do.

But here, gentle reader, I throw down my pen ; when I 've leisure, perhaps I 'll write again, — that is, provided you care to read a story written at railway speed.

COIL III.

"Who was so firm, so constant, that this coil*
Would not infect his reason?"

Tempest, Act I. Scene 2.

"They continued to row on, till at length Eymer told Thor if they did not stop, they would be in danger from the great serpent of Midgard. * * * * It is impossible to express the dreadful looks that the god darted at the serpent, while the monster, raising his head, spouted out venom upon him."

The Edda, XXVII. Fable. [The journey undertaken by Thor, to go to fish for the great-serpent.]

I.

BUT e'er the Lieutenant tells his story, I'll tell you something he did not know : that two men, that day, in a little dory, had seen the serpent swim to and fro, between Nahant and the beach at Lynn, while two hundred men on the shore, at least, were ready at any court to go in, and swear that they had seen the beast. Quite an exciting scene took place, so I am told by those who saw it ; old and young in boats

* Bustle, tumult.

gave chase, for a great reward had been offered for it. "Out with the boats! hurrah for the snake! Look! look! o'er the sea his head he's raising. Whoever gets him his fortune will make, and a blaze of glory he'll end his days in. Out with the boats! — its something like fishing, to fish for a fish six hundred feet long!" While some on the shore most devoutly were wishing, that they had Thor's bait and his fish-line strong, with which he nearly caught the snake over two thousand years ago, when Eymer thought it best to take care of his boat, — with a single blow he cut the line, and let him go.⁴

Pull, my hearties, you in the boat where the bow-man poises the bright harpoon! Every man there, with his heart in his throat, hopes to see fun with the serpent soon. (Those men were Nantucket whalemens old, who had sailed the sea both far and near, and oft to their friends in Lynn had told what they'd do if the serpent came that year.) Like lightning the steel from his sure hand glances, — they've struck him, —

three cheers for the valiant men ! See where the boat like a cockle-shell dances in the wake of the monster, as down to his den he rushes as fast as an arrow can fly, when sped from the string of a trusty bow ; — as swift as the eagle mounts the sky, he plunges down to the depths below ! Every man, with his hair on end, held on to his oar in mute despair, — thought of his mother, — and some pretend each had to hold on to his neighbour's hair. So fast the serpent flew through the waves, though calm, it seemed to blow hard now ; — look out, my hearties, for watery graves, if with his tail he staves your prow ! Some in the boat were saying their prayers, some were too much frightened to pray ; while others thought they 'd sell him in shares, when they got him up to Boston Bay. A Boston merchant, safe on the beach, was thinking how much he 'd bring on "Change" ; his daughter lost all power of speech at a sight so most terrifically strange.

On flew the boat ; — up came the snake ; — but only a moment he stays above, just to see which

course he 'd take, and to give them a touching proof of love. Away he shoots for the great hotel. Blinded with rage, he does not see ; or, if he does, he knows right well that all Nahant would certainly flee. Should they see him coming right ashore, every one there would run away ; for though he had often been there of yore, lately he 's rather preferred to stray on the less frequented shores of Maine. Nor is it at all surprising he should ; but it 's rather droll to hear farmers complain, that, merely to cheer his solitude, he knocks down their walls and rolls in their grain ! ⁵

II.

On fled the snake, and swiftly flew the boat behind through the dashing foam ; there never was a more frightened crew ; all of them wished themselves safe at home. One old sailor, Richard Rough, sung out, — “ Avast there ! cut the line ! Chasing whales is fun enough, and catching serpents may be fine sport for those who like it ; but I am inclined to think, by his strength and fuss, that he

does n't seem inclined to die ; and though sport to him, 't will be death to us."

On fled the snake ; Solomon Soils looked over his shoulder, and said to Brown, " What would Kimball pay for one of those coils for his Museum up in *Bosting town* ? " " Pooh ! Kimball ? — he does n't want the snake ; he has one now, but it 's stored away, and it 's only waiting its turn to take, after the mermaid has had its day ; but Barnum—— " " Cut the line ! " cried Rough, again ; " I say there ! cut the line ! " But the man in the bow was of sterner stuff, and he meant to hold on till the sun's decline. Rough rushed to the bow, with his knife in his hand, — " I 'll cut it ! " he cried ; " 't is our only hope ! " — but he slipped, just how I don't understand, and fell into the sea ; meanwhile the rope held on to the snake, and away they fled, like a Cunard boat o'er the waves of blue, when the serpent turned round and laughingly said, " To catch me you 're altogether too few ! " At this a tremendous bound he made, and started off as brisk as a linnet, to

cut the line ; — too long they 'd delayed, for the boat was over, and all that were in it were lost, save one who held on to the keel ; the snake did n't stop to observe the disaster, for he felt in his side the painful steel, and so he clawed on for the shore the faster.

At Nahant the ladies in nice blue dresses were bathing, not far from the cove near the house ; just where the ocean the shore caresses, the belles have come down their tresses to souse. Softly the summer sun was playing over the calm and waveless sea, *softer far* were *those lovers* straying under the shaded balcony. Brightly those sherry cobblers glisten, the bucks are drinking there at the bar,; and *soft* this *song* to which they listen, sung by a beau on his "light guitar."

I.

If charmed by thy witchery, loitering, I linger
Spell-bound, enchanted by beauty and song,
While Time, floating swiftly, denotes with his finger
That long hours have fled which have not
seemed long, —

O, if the wand of the wizard could win me
Hours and moments that long since are o'er, —
My heart, answering true to the spirit within me,
Would ask the past moments passed with thee
of yore.

II.

Still, when I meet thee, thy lovely face glowing
With more than the grace that thy girlhood e'er
knew,
While, from thy lips melodiously flowing,
I hear the loved song that I first heard from
you ;
Then, revoking the wish I was just now express-
ing,
The wand of the wizard, how idle its powers,
Compared with the joy I feel in confessing,
That thy song and thy smile have restored the
lost hours !

“ I wonder who 't is in 21, who always sings
such silly songs ? ” “ I don't know ; but, faith,

I 'm glad he 's done. ' Were vengeance due for all the wrongs ' that he on me bestows, when, with his trumpet, fife, and flute, he wakes me with his *toot, toot, toot*, I 'd go and break his nose."

Thus they were talking at the bar, when the beau struck up again ;— but it 's time to see where the ladies are, and we shall not look in vain.

Fair was the day, but fairer still those sylph-like forms in the summer sea ;— who could dream that aught of ill could mar their hour of revelry ? Lightly they play with the glistening waves, or dive for the pearly pebbles and shells, swept by the winds from ocean's caves. But hark ! do you hear those horrid yells ? —

On came the serpent right for the spot ! Like lightning gleamed his glaring eyes. He doubts if the ladies are mermaids or not ;— the man on the keel, with a wild surprise, suspects they are, but he does not know ; for, ever since the boat upset, he 's been tossed above and dragged below. However, he shrieks, " Ho, look out there ! get out of

the way ! for heaven's sake fly ! rush where you can ! if you linger, you die ! ”

On came the snake, like a whirlwind blast ; over the waves he fairly leapt ; in the surf a maiden stood aghast, — over her quick the monster swept. Heavens ! list to her frantic screams ! “ Father ! mother ! — O, help me ! — save ! — Albert, Albert ! ” Little *he* deems that his lady has met with a watery grave ! Albert stood on a point of rocks ; his trusty rifle gleamed in his hand ; (he wore the neatest of hunting-frocks ;) he saw the snake making straight for the land ; and though in truth he was somewhat alarmed, yet he took good aim and blazed away. But the serpent bears a life that 's ‘charmed ; and though Albert says to this very day that he hit him, yet ah ! I fear the fact is, that Albert was sadly out of practice.

III.

A mother was in the bathing-house there ; her little girl is safe by her side ; they hear the shrieks that rend the air, and the canvas door they open

wide. Up came the snake over the sand ; the bathing-house there was just in his course. What can the strength of the serpent withstand ? On he came, with resistless force, over the house, the mother and child. On, right on, the Saurian sped ;— what cared he for their outcries wild ? for the mother and infant crushed and dead ? On, right on, he scrambled along, up the bank, and over the rocks. The boat held on, for the rope was strong ; the man on the keel got some pretty hard knocks, as he tumbled off and rolled in the sand, and thanked his stars he was safe on land. On flew the snake up to the door of the house where so many had talked of him ; but who ever thought or dreamed before that he 'd really come, all cold and grim, as then he came crashing along, o'er the piazza, and into the hall, into the midst of the jolly throng ? Untasted they let their goblets fall ; uprose a shriek of horror then ; the serpent roared, and hissed, and growled, while some beaux and belles, say eight or ten, who all the morning had merrily bowled in the alleys, that moment were

coming in at the other door, half wild with pleasure ; goodness, gracious ! how they spin out of his way ! — while beyond all measure the ladies upstairs comfortably sitting, reading Longfellow's last new book, or else a purse for a lover knitting, are frightened ; they run to the window and look to see what 's the matter, and, screaming, wonder whether it 's fire or whether its thunder. On rushed the snake, and, thundering after, came the boat with an awful crash, that shook the house from cellar to rafter, while boat and serpent together dash off to the left, and over the green that lies the hotel and the ocean between.

IV.

Just on the slope, with its rough stone walls, stands the billiard saloon on the brink of the sea. Some bucks from Boston were knocking the balls about on the boards right merrily ; little cared they for serpents or snakes ; they were playing merely as gentlemen do, not for the sake of winning the stakes, but merely to see how sure and

true they could pocket a ball, when, with a bound, the serpent as swift as lightning came through the window, and crushed to the ground the men and tables, and stopped their game ; but he did n't stop, for out of the other swiftly he fled for the sea again, and the boat, which stuck to him close as a brother, came to the window, but there in twain the rope that Rough with his knife would have parted broke, two miles from the place whence he started.

The serpent was gone. Out on the sea they saw him swimming rapidly, — saw him shaking his frightful mane, and daring them to touch him again. A fisherman tells the tale, 't is said, that he saw him at sunset, bloody and red, fighting alone with a massive whale, which he killed at last with a blow of his tail.

Sad the scene and mournful the sight the ladies saw at Nahant that night ; dead and drowned and wounded men were found wherever the snake had been. Mournful, mournful ! Albert's heart was broken ; let the tear-drop start ; mourn with

him the early doom "of beauty blossoming for the tomb." O, how mournfully sound the waves, when the truly loved are lost, murmuring in their hollow caves ! when the feelings are tempest-tossed, as were Albert's hopes to hear, from every shell he holds at his ear, some message from Cora, or else to see her rise from the waves in her purity !

What is that coming over the ocean ? Albert thinks, by the dim twilight, that it must be the snake, by its winding motion. And Albert this time was certainly right ; 't was indeed the snake, and with him he brought Cora's body safe to the shore. He turned slowly round, and, e'er he sought his home in the heaving deep once more, said to Albert, " For all the mischief done I am sorry, but now, in this troubled hour, I advise you henceforth to beware of my power. Cora I sought in the waves, and here have brought her ; 'strew with flowers her bier.' But if with *that gun* any game you 'get, you will have to practice a little more yet." He was gone,

while Albert mournfully bore Cora away from that fatal shore.

All of Lynn came over to see what had become of Rough and the rest ; they heard this story of mystery, and all went home extremely distressed. And the man who owned the boat was very sad at the loss of the snake and the wherry.

Now all of this happened the very day the Boston yacht came into the bay ; yet those on board the yacht had not heard of it, and some of my friends doubt every word of it.

We left the lieutenant about to tell the fearful tale of what befell some Northmen ; so, lest we should spoil his story, let him begin the Coil.

COIL IV.

First Naturalist. (After dinner.) "What! the S-S-She-Sher-pent a-an (hic) Ich(hic)thyosaurus? Nonshe-ense!"

Second Naturalist. "Who said Ich (hic) Ichthy-o-saurus? I said a (hic) Plesio(hic)saurus plain enuff." — PUNCH.

I.

"WELL, ladies," said Hunt, "some North-traders bold, who over the seas in their galleys rolled, told of the serpent this tale to me, when I was up in the Northern sea. The captain here thinks it very absurd, that I should say a single word about him; but when the captain hears that the serpent has the longest ears, — so long, that twenty-five miles, it is said, he can hear, — and up from his truckle-bed he hurries as fast as he can swim, to see who it is that talks of him—— (this in parentheses let me say: if any think of fishing to-day, I beg that especial care you will take, that none of the party allude to the snake)——"

"Pooh!" said the captain; "the longest ears has he who believes, not he who hears."

The lieutenant's brow grew suddenly black ; (you have seen a cloud come over the skies ;) but the captain was back on the other tack, and, to calm the rage he had kindled, cried, "Now, Hunt, forgive me, and, ladies, you must pardon the word untimely sped ; believe me, till now I never knew such monstrous ears the monster had." Captain Skip was rich ; just such men you may meet on "Change" between two and ten, and those men often have a way of saying things they should n't say.

Miss Wood looked up with her blandest smile, and begged that Hunt would go on. "Meanwhile, Captain Skip, I join your party, and doubt if there is such a fish as he 's talking about." The lieutenant went on ; but little he knew that the serpent was there, and listening too. Under the yacht the serpent lay, thinking that Skip was a horrid old fellow. "I 've done some mischief, it 's true, to-day, but I 'd like to know if he 's black or yellow."

"These Northmen, in their dark-ribbed ship,

were sailing up the Northern sea ; — it 's not considered a pleasant trip, if the Maelstrom chance to be under your lee. It was summer time ; but plenty of ice islands, with pinnacles tall and shattered, like crystal castles of strange device, with bannered towers and battlements battered, — looking more like the castles built in the air by your ' easy sort of men,' (beautifully carved and massively gilt,) who are just getting ready to move in, when down they come to the earth again, — these o'er the dark blue sea were scattered, where devils and foxes howled and chattered ; I 've watched them oft, as I stood in the shrouds, till these crystal castles gleamed like clouds." "Faith," said the captain, "I'm glad to know where all these magnificent castles go ; I thought that from Wall Street they went to the moon. Well, give us a touch of the serpent soon." "Pray do," said Miss Wood ; "for I long to hear how he chanced to have that wonderful ear. What a very convenient ear it would be ! I wish his Snakeship would lend it to me.

But perhaps he lives in a castle of air, and he needs it when he 's flying there." Could Miss Wood and the captain have looked through the wave, they 'd have seen what a grin the Saurian gave. But the captain thought — O, how often so 't is in life ! — the serpent *beneath* his notice.

II.

" These islands," said Hunt, " are dangerous things to meet on the wide and desolate wave, when Eolus takes off the top of his cave, setting the raging north wind free, for a week or so of liberty. These Northmen were still like their sires of eld ; every sea has their tall ships held ; their ancestors fought for the bright red gold ; these took it in trade, and bought and sold. Now they were merrily dashing home, with a spanking breeze, through the glittering foam. Our two ships were alone on the sea, but we sailed for a while in company. We were off the coast of Norway then, some fifty miles from Bergen Bay, and hoped full soon to reach it, when the breeze

one morning died away ; so tranquil and calm that summer ocean, you could half forget that the sea has motion. There we lay ; the sea seemed dead ; this quiet calm reminds me sadly of what the bold North-trader said, (he did not tell that story gladly.) Their ship was near, — so near, that we could in the silence faintly hear their songs of joyous revelry. They sung the lagging hours to cheer. O, who that ever sailed the sea, and has been becalmed for a week or day, has not felt a throb of sympathy for the stranger sail that near him lay ?

“ ’T was noon. Our gallant frigate slept, and, save the sound of the light guitar, where the merry middies their revels kept, while one sung songs, sung better far by girls he ’d met at Newport parties, (a simple song may tell you — ah, how truly ! — where that middy’s heart is,) naught broke the stillness of that hour, for a calm at sea has a soothing power. Some of us walked the quarter-deck, some in the cabin were writing, when, before a word or thought could check,

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rushing aft came the foremast men. Every cheek was pale with fear. Was it mutiny ? did they mean to rise and seize the ship ? O, no. ‘ See here ! look quick ! ’ I looked with wild surprise, and saw, just over our larboard bow, an awful creature, with horrid head, so near, so very near our prow, with eyes that glared so fierce, so red, that I think, Miss Wood, if the captain and you had been there, you ’d have been frightened too.⁶

“ Middies and crew rushed up from below, every one asking ‘ What ’s the matter ? ’ They saw the frightful monster. O, how their teeth began to chatter ! Storming on deck the captain came : ‘ What means this ? what ’s the trouble now ? To your stations ! ’ Here those eyes of flame, steadily staring over the bow, caught the captain’s. ‘ Heavens ! ’ he cried, and stood for a moment stupefied, — only a moment ; ‘ Clear away the forward guns, and give him a shot ! ’ Doggedly the men obeyed, though ’t was very clear they ’d rather not. ‘ Out with a boat ! I

would like to know, what is it can frighten my sailors so ? ’

“ I went in the boat ; there were men with me, who had roved the earth and sailed the sea, — all fortunes, climes, and shores had seen, — through battle, fire, and shipwreck been, — every desperate chance had braved, — fought for their comrades when enslaved. Old England thought her bloody flag, that floated ‘ in its pride of place,’ might swoop upon our fleets, and drag our men to chains ; the deep disgrace they sought to heap upon us then we nobly spurned, as freemen should. O, long shall they remember when we on the seas our claims made good ! for frightful wreck and anguished groan have long on History’s page made known how Hull’s brave sailors stood. We dimmed her gleaming cross in gore, and taught her, though an infant yet, that sons of sires who fought of yore had not forgot, *but may forget*. Forgive me, but that fearful strife cost me a much-loved father’s life ; that war was fairly fought ; and when Peace with its blessings

came again, O, who but iron men like these, who fought, but mourned both friend and foe, could see our banner o'er the seas borne freely as the winds that blow, or calm the warm emotion then that burst from patriotic lips, while listening nations wondered when they heard the deeds of 'Yankee ships'? Those wars are o'er, and never more may earth or seas be cursed again with armies battling on the shore, or navies on the main. Our soil is rich with glittering gold; fair Glory is an empty dream; O, then, keep bright the links unrolled, that stretch where Albion's white cliffs gleam! But if our hearts for glory glow, — if still we wish to feed that flame, — study the fields of Mexico, where TAYLOR won a deathless name.

“ Honor to every patriot's soul, honor to every hero there, who dared, where battle's fires roll, to die, — to show what freemen dare! High honor to the storied brave! High honor to the Chief who led! But spurn ye, scorn the soulless slave, who dares defame the valiant dead! But not

alone for those should we pour forth the tide of sympathy. Let beauty's blooming cheek grow dim for all who dared the desperate fight ; but blush, blush deeper still, *for him who dares not deem HIS COUNTRY right*. Yes, though I deeply
ar despise, and hate it as a deadly sin, the love of country still denies the thought that foes the field should win. Too much of this ; — that war is past ; O, may it truly be ' our last ' !

III.

“ My men were bold, for they were old ; but one turned round and said to Ben, ‘ This is a savage beast, I ’m told ; I wish I was on board again. I fought with Perry on the lakes ; but hang me if I fight with snakes ! ’ We reconnoitred him, and he very leisurely eyed us keenly ; he did n’t seem disposed to flee, but took our visit quite serenely. Just then a boat the Northmen sent, and, quickly to our frigate rowing, begged leave to tell to Captain Bent something that they thought worth his knowing. In

fact, our captain wanted much to ask the Northmen all about him ; he never had believed in such a fish, and even felt disposed to doubt him now, although before his eyes, in glittering coils, the serpent lies.

“ A signal came for our recall, and we obeyed the order gladly ; the Northmen told us they were all surprised to see us act so madly. ‘ Are you aware,’ their captain said, ‘ this snake has power to sink or eat you ? Our sailors hold him in such dread, that I have come here to entreat you that you will let him go his way, nor stir his anger up to-day’ ; for once,’ said he, ‘ a ship of mine was sailing with another ship, not far from here, when eight or nine sea-serpents came, and stopped her trip, — for one of them, a savage beast, leaped o’er between her masts, and sunk her ; he was six hundred feet, at least, in length, — so swore her mate, Joe Bunker. The ship was lost, and only Joe escaped these Ormens⁸ of the Soe.’ The serpent thought beneath the yacht, ‘ Well, that is droll now, is it not ? Besides, I think it ’s

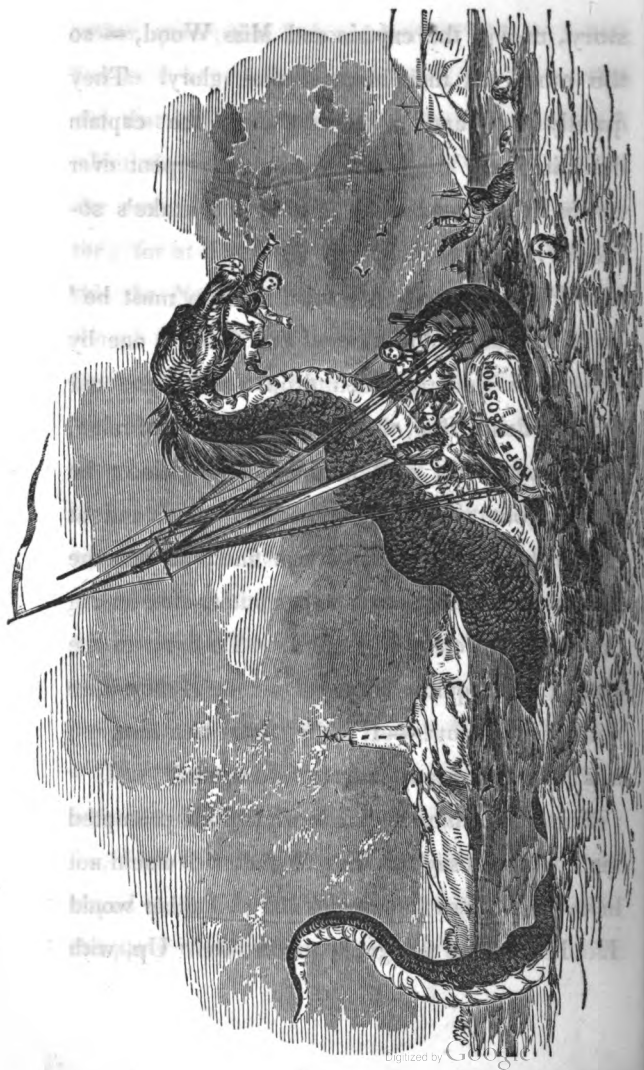
rather queer, that I should hear of it down here ; for, as I hope to eat my mother, the snake that did that was my brother !' The mate declared, ' Had they cast some castor out of the vessel into the sea, they would not have met this dire disaster ; for at that these serpents always flee.'⁹ At this the Northmen rose, and went on deck ; and though Captain Bent was bent on giving the creature a shot, I own I am glad he concluded to let him alone. The Northmen left us and rowed away ; and at every stroke their oarsmen gave, as they pulled in fear through the glittering spray, aqua vitæ and castor they threw in the wave. The moment the serpent scented the drug, the men said he streaked off like a lightning-bug ; and a breeze springing up at six bells next day, we anchored not far from Bergen Bay."

The lieutenant's story was over, and those who heard it prepared for their night's repose ; for, truth to tell, it was somewhat late, and they hoped to land in the morning at eight. Most of the party went below ; nearly all believed Hunt's

story, except the captain and Miss Wood, — so the others left them alone in their glory. They quietly sat, and talked together, the captain doubting very much whether a sea-serpent ever swam in the sea ; — but list to the snake's soliloquy.

“ What a horrid monster that Skip must be ! he 'll be caught by some of our family ; one by one these doubting men drop yearly into our gloomy den. Soe, that younger brother of mine, has done pretty well in the doubting line ; he catches one now every evening at nine, and at dinner he always declares him fine ; he tells me he always feels stronger and stouter, after eating the most inveterate doubter. To-day, to be sure, I killed quite a lot ; — I wonder if they were doubters or not ! — I really feel quite hungry ; it 's plain it is nearly time to feed again.”

Just at this moment some wicked elf prompted the captain to say to Miss Wood, “ I would not believe, if I saw him myself.” “ Neither would I. It 's rather too good, that st— ” Up, with



a bound, the serpent came, rushing out of the silent sea, his eyes like flashing meteor's flame ! " Turn not those lovely eyes on me ! " — that was all Miss Wood could scream, as he knocked her overboard into the ocean, and seized the captain ere he could dream what had caused this awful commotion. Into the waves the sailors leap ; into the sea the serpent is leaping ; some that watch, and some that sleep, never more shall wake from sleeping, — never, till the last trump, sweeping over earth and over sea, wakes them to immortality !

Hunt was convinced, by the screaming that followed, that those who jumped over were instantly swallowed. The water flew over the yacht's white deck ; her foresail and boom were a perfect wreck ; nothing was left for poor Hunt to do, but to hunt up the party and muster the crew. Skip, and Miss Wood, and five others, not found, were lost, and, of course, either eaten or drowned ; one a pert chambermaid, — the ladies regret her, though they know that in Boston

they 'll soon get a better, when, to their wonder, this pearl beyond price crawled out of an ice-bin, eating an ice. Forbes grieved most for the gay Miss Wood. He loved her well ; her matchless orbs he worshipped ; it was understood she would some day be a match for Forbes. None on board slept more that night, and, at the earliest dawn of light, they were very glad to finish their jaunt, by getting ashore in their boats at Nahant.

They found Nahant in great confusion ; some were packing up to go away, others had come to the conclusion that it was quite as safe to stay ; some were for getting up an expedition to go and catch the snake ; others were in a great perplexity, and hardly knew just what to make of it. But Forbes, and Hunt, and Albert said, *they'd* catch the serpent, alive or dead. Hunt took the yacht direct to town, had her repaired, and, with four six-pounders, he hoisted sail again, to go down to Nahant, — but not to fish for flounders. Albert, Prince, and Forbes were ready with a

gallant crew from Nahant and Lynn, all stout and true. The wind blew steady. But I really can't stop to go into particulars, — nor to tell you how they started, how Miss Percy was left nearly broken-hearted, and how Miss Bell *sighed* when Dick Forbes departed.

COIL V.

"In the blue depth of the waters,
Where the wave hath no strife,
Where the wind is a stranger,
And the Sea Snake hath life."

"They tell me that these serpents fling themselves in a wide circle round a boat, so that the men are surrounded on all sides; and that they will sometimes raise up their frightful heads and snap a man out of a boat."

PONTOPPIDAN, p. 196, sec. 4.

"They told me of a Sea-Serpent or Snake, that lay coiled up like a cable upon a rock at Cape Ann."

From An Account of Two Voyages to New England, Anno Dom. 1638, by JOHN JOSSELYN, Gent.

I.

THERE is a rock in the middle of ocean wild,
all desolate, rough, and bare; round it the
waves, in continual motion, burst on the shaggy
sea-weed there. Sometimes the men of our mer-
chant ships, sailing o'er the wondrous main,
see it, and tell, with frightened lips, that on chart
and atlas they 've looked in vain to find it; but

many a gallant bark, dashing over the ocean's foam, has found it, when the skies were dark, and never more was welcomed home. Lonely it stands in the gloomy wave, the tombstone of many a sailor's grave. 'T is the serpent's throne ;— and there he sat, looking so savage, so fierce, so grim, that none of his courtiers dared to chat ; some were even afraid to look at him. Three hundred feet of his monstrous length were coiled round the rock ; three hundred more stood waving and bright, like a tower of strength, while he sang this song, with a hiss and a roar.

SONG .

I AM the Ichthyosaurian old ;
I lived in the world before the flood ;
I 've caught many a fisherman bold ;
Our tribe, though few, are of ancient blood.
We roam the sea, as we roamed it when
Job and the Prophets roamed the earth ;
Some of those wise and godly men
Mention me. Since creation's birth

I 've been king of the heaving sea.

None dare dispute it ; far and near

The fishes all look up to me ;

I shall reign for ever here.

The devil-fish,¹⁰ his prime minister, then approached, and humbly begged he 'd step down into their little private den ; he did so, but still, with a fearful frown, he told the wolf-fish, his cook, a beginner, not to spoil the soup he was cooking for dinner. Let us look in at the serpent's den : — Grinning skulls of doubting men were ranged on one side, and on the other was sitting in state his imperial brother ; he had just ground a new-caught doubter to powder, and had made from his skull a ladle for chowder. Friendly their greeting, — a snap and a howl, a social hiss and a kindly growl ; both of them laughed, and the devil-fish he “grinned a ghastly smile,” from sympathy. This den was just beneath the rock, where the huge waves break with a ceaseless shock.

One by one the family came, with bloody fangs and eyes of flame ; however, they seemed quite ready to eat, and each took at the table his usual seat. They were served by horrid forms, born in darkness and cradled in storms ; monsters, that 'neath the dark blue waves live and die, in ocean's caves. A dog-fish was lying under the table, to eat the crumbs that tumbled there ; the minister wanted to eat him ; he 's able to do so, but just at that time did n't care on etiquette so far to trample, unless his Highness should set the example. The sharks outside smelt the steam of the victuals, so they came into the kitchen and looked into the kettles ; but the serpent howled, and every one swam off, without getting so much as a bone. After dinner a school of whales came in and sung, and beat time with their tails. Several young Kraken, of noble mien, a mile and a quarter long at least, declared that *there* they 'd no more be seen, if the whales were to sing at the close of the feast.

Just at this moment a shout was heard ; Soe

was out of the den like a bird, and in less than a minute was back to say that "some men in a boat are coming this way." Now it chanced three days before, that a gallant ship was burnt at morning ; they were a thousand miles from shore, and the flames had given so brief a warning, that only one boat was saved, and she with women and men (say twenty-three) was crowded, — a wretched company. In fact, they were getting short of provision when they spied this rock ; and fields Elysian ne'er looked so fair to a poet's view, as that rock to them, in the ocean blue. They steered for the rock and were coming near, when, looking down through the waters clear, they saw something swimming under the sea, and they wondered much what that fish could be ; just then they saw what filled them with fear, six serpents dash round them in full career ; they felt at the sight "considerably struck up" ; but shipwrecked people must still keep their pluck up. The ladies at once began to cry ; some of the men felt disposed to mourn ; and, had you

been there, I doubt if I or you could have viewed these monsters borne by the waves about them, or ever believed that men by such sights *could* be deceived. Five or six sharks came up to see if they of any service could be ; the devil, dog-fish, whales, Krakens, and all, forsook for a while the banquet-hall. In spiral curve, and glittering ring, the snakes their coils round that doomed boat fling, and almost before you could think or look, one of the crew from the boat they took ; that was *our* serpent, — but Soe, his brother, in a moment more had taken another. The sharks, at this, went half mad with glee, and splashed about in the heaving sea ; while the whales and the Krakens rejoiced beyond measure, at whatever afforded their monarch such pleasure, and the devil-fish laughed, and looked on at his leisure. Soe turned to his brother, and wanted to bet, that in less than ten minutes he'd all of them get ; and then, to prove he was as good as a better, he came up 'neath the boat, and just overset her.

All in a moment were eaten then, — while the blue sea blushed at this deed of blood, — all but one, who escaped from the flood ; he climbed up the cliff and stood on the rock, while Soe came up and began to mock him, and ask him if really he thought himself king of the heaving sea. Each particular hair on his head stood up, as he saw each hideous snake a sort of dance or measure tread round the rock, with the devil-fish close in their wake ; he felt like a prisoner tied to the stake ; he felt, — O, who can say what he felt ? His heart within him seemed to melt, when he heard them mock him with horrid glee, while they laughingly roared, “ Ha, ha, he, he ! ”

In a moment they came. He saw them coming ; one was an air from “ Diavolo ” humming. Soe crawled up and sat down beside him, while five serpents beneath most wistfully eyed him ; but this man had always been a believer, so Soe’s sister said, — and naught *could* deceive her, — and they should n’t eat him ; and though she was right, in less than a minute he died of

fright. Then they went down to their banquet again, and sat down and ate and drank like men.

II.

They had not sat long, when their monarch arose, and said, "I feel the great need of healthful diversion, and have therefore decided, if no one oppose, to go off for some weeks on a sea-side excursion. The fact is, I think that the duties of state have somewhat enfeebled my vigor of late. I have therefore concluded to shut up my house, to throw off the purple and put on a blouse, and for some weeks at least in the sea-surf to souse. If any remain here, why, keep up my court; my squids here will make you some excellent sport.¹¹ I shall start this evening, but hardly know to which of the beaches I'd better go; let me see," — and here he took from a heap of letters some circulars, nicely printed, sent by those clever men who keep hotels, in which it was more than hinted that nothing would give them half so much pleasure

as a visit from him for a month or week, and hoped he 'd come, if he had leisure, health, strength, and fun at the beach to seek. He read them through with a careless air, and said, "They always bore me with these ; yet I 've half a mind to go, I declare, and teach them that I am King of the Seas, and should go if I chose, though I was n't invited ; yet I own it 's pleasanter not to be slighted. Mr. Morgan has got up the Cape Ann Pavilion, and he wants me to come ; he 's a clever civilian as ever you 'll chance in your travels to meet ; he has boats that are safe and steeds that are fleet. So he says, and I know every word of it 's true ; for when at Nahant he kept there with Drew, he used to come off every day in a boat, some time in the morning between eight and nine, and having secured to his fish-hook a note, he would then very cautiously drop me a line. Let me see," said the serpent, "I think I 've his note. No. But he wrote it so often, I 've got it by rote ;—and something like this the document

ran : ' Hail, mighty Sea-Serpent ! the wonder of man ; we beg, we entreat, we most earnestly pray, that your most Serene Highness will honor our bay for a week or two longer, till Boston has seen from ~~our~~ windows the length of your Highness serene. Pray don't be so modest ; we consider, your Highness, that that virtue in you is a practical shyness. We had rather by half have you come to our doors, and eat all the boarders who take the first floors, than to have you keep off at such wonderful distance as to make people doubt in your Honor's existence ; at all events, now, if you cannot stay long here, we shall have while you do a terrible throng here. So good bye to your Honor ; you out-Gorgon Gorgon ; but behaviour, not looks, is Drew's motto. A. MORGAN.' Since he told me I out-Gorgoned Gorgon, my brother,¹⁹ I have always liked Morgan, some how or other. And now let me see, — here 's a bushel or more notes from Newport, Nahant, and a few from Nantasket, Cape May,¹³ and the Pool, and all along shore ; —

will no one remove this notable basket? I shall go; but as yet I cannot tell where. If a sparkling bay woos me, perchance I shall linger; but give me good fishing, good food, and good air, and little care I where fashion's gay finger may point; for wherever I go or may be, I am still the king, the king of the sea!

“Among other notes, there is one, I observe, for Commencement at Cambridge; a double L. D. they intend to give me, which they think I deserve for my knowledge of Ichthyology. I start this evening; but ere I go on this tour, which perhaps may be my last, I wish all my subjects here below to hurry and come to my rescue fast, if they chance to hear me give the growl I always give when I get into danger; and then you must come with a rush and a howl, and bring with you every ocean ranger.” With this parting injunction his Majesty started, while his courtiers looked grave when their monarch departed.

Out on the sea, out on the sea, the Hope is dashing merrily now, with the harbour of Newport

under her lee, and the white spray flying over her prow ! On ! on ! how she parts the seething wave ! On ! on ! how she shoots through the heaving tide ! On ! on ! O, what is a sight more brave than a white-winged bird on the waters wide ? Away she has fled, and the glittering foam seems to give her proudly a welcome home. Hunt and Forbes with Prince were seen, as near the fort she rounded to and anchored, with dejected mien to row to land, o'er the waves of blue. And had you been in the great saloon of the Ocean House, where of course you 've been, where they dance at morning, night, and noon, you would not have found them dancing then ; O, no, — for they crowded round to hear this very tale that I 've been telling. O, many a bright eye held a tear, while many a breast, with sorrow swelling, mourned for the beauteous, fair, and good, — the loved, the lost, the gay Miss Wood ! However deep our sorrow flows, perhaps our joy flows deeper ; say, who grieves most for secret woes, the silent or

the weeper ? They told, besides, that they had been on a cruise to find the cruel snake, and had come to Newport for aid and men, and hoped that all would a crusade make to catch him. "And so we will !" cried all ; "but wait till after the fancy ball."

III.

There is a class, — 't is rapidly increasing within this empire that we proudly hold, — who, toiling on, with labor never ceasing, have won at last in heaps the glittering gold ; — these go to Newport. There you find assembled bright eyes ; wealth, beauty, genius, fashion ; fair belles, before whose wit some men have trembled, and sought in vain to soothe love's gentle passion, until at last, by sympathy grown tender, they at the altar mutually surrender. Newport was now in great commotion ; each tide of passion, love, and feeling, each hope that ruffles life's dull ocean, were there revealed. O, what revealings those fifteen chandeliers could make, that deck that gorgeous

banquet-hall, could you their depositions take of what they heard at last year's ball ! Soft sighs and softer speeches breathed in willing ears beneath that dome, while gorgeous dress, with diamonds wreathed, outshone the carnival at Rome. And Beauty thronged from far and near to catch some little gleam of fame,—to have it whispered in her ear, “ My dear Miss A., I see your name is mentioned in to-day's Gazette ; and what is more, most charming beauty, 't is said that you eclipsed your set, and won from all especial duty.”

Brave days !—and bravely looked each guest. O, long keep bright this pageant show, where NORTH and SOUTH, and EAST and WEST, from Montreal to Mexico, may meet, — but not as sometimes, met at Washington, they *talk* and FIGHT o'er party schemes, and groan and fret to make right wrong, and wrong seem right. If folly sometimes thither strays, 't is lost in fashion's brilliant blaze ; and I have often doubted whether this Union, framed with sword and pen, would

have of late years held together, had no such place as Newport been. Well, all was here in great confusion ; and beaux and belles and fond mammas had made some matches whose conclusion was sure, provided dear papa's consent, and cash, and blessing granted, should give the bliss for which they panted. The ball would soon take place, and that of course filled all the morning chat ; the sail, the dance, the dashing ride, were half forgotten, while with pride each belle within her own dear room dons veil and jacket, cap and plume, and doubts, and doubts, and doubts again, about that costume and this train, and wonders if she cannot get something that's more *distingué* yet. She who would never "be a nun" decides that evening to be one, and win that beau, if she *can win* him, who has such life and small talk in him. Bohemian girls, and gypsies too, were every entry dashing through to ask a lady or mamma about this jewel or that star. Down stairs, just then, those veteran smokers forgot to smoke ; while George

and Ben, those jolly jokers, forgot to joke, and Congressmen, poor party croakers, forgot to croak. The dear, delightful fancy ball engaged both young and old and all.

In other times Dick Forbes had been within his element ; but now he sat apart, nor cared for men. With downcast eyes and gloomy brow he seized his harp, and woke a strain ; but not of joy or gladsome mirth he sang, for O, he felt how vain, how fleeting, are the joys of earth.

SONG.

I.

If all the world were happy,
If every one was blest,
If all were free from misery,
From trouble and unrest,
If the mind were free from sorrow,
The body free from pain,
Death a double pang would borrow ;
But now, " to die is gain."

II.

If the sunny skies of childhood
Were to float for ever near,
If the leaves that deck the wildwood
Were never to be sere,
If joys in troops descended
To gild life's barren plain,
Who would wish this fair world ended,
Or would feel "to die is gain"?

Albert Prince caught the sad refrain, and he turned to Forbes and gently said, "I truly feel 'to die were gain,' could I follow where my Cora fled; but at present I hope to live, and take before I die that fearful snake." Newport never before nor since held two such sad and gloomy men as Richard Forbes and Albert Prince, nor soon shall see their like again. So let us leave them, and follow the wake, for a moment, of this most horrible snake.

IV.

Out on the sea, out on the sea, the snake is swimming happy and free ; — he 's left Cape Ann with every sense bent on reaching Cambridge by Commencement. He shoots along, while every wave its phosphorescent brightness gave ; and now old Boston's outer light gleamed on his eye serenely bright. He passed the forts, and left the bay ; up by Long Wharf he held his way, gained the mouth of our own Charles River, saw the lights of East Cambridge quiver ; the pedestrians on the bridge all shiver, and wonder what 't is that splashes the water, while the serpent swims on, with his mind bent on slaughter. Next he came where, o'er the tide, West Boston Bridge throws its arches wide, and there he paused a moment to wonder whether he 'd better go over or under. Two Sophs just then were driving out, with echoing song and ringing shout, each passer-by in choice Greek hailing, when at the moment o'er the railing the serpent stuck his awful mug ; he startled the

horses, they turned the buggy over, and left each frightened student wondering what could be imprudent enough to stop *them* on that highway, and mourning much that they 'd have to pay for a runaway team and a broken railing ; for they found next day that no prevailing of theirs on the watchmen could make them aware that they had met with the sea-serpent there. Quietly up the river he swum ; Cambridge little guessed what a guest had come. He heard the boat club's rollicking chorus, and listened with joy to the jolly stave, as they sang, " Put off, while full before us Hope's beacon shines to cheer the brave ! " Out of the silent river he crept, and bided him away to the college yard ; a proctor's eye, that never slept, caught his, and said, " May I be tarred and feathered if some of the Freshmen class are not building a bonfire there to-night ! see how that lamp illumines the grass ! I must reconnoitre and set things right. " The proctor has donned his darkest cloak, and sallied out in the midnight damp ; no sound save

his tread the silence broke, but brighter and brighter flamed the lamp, till, horror of horrors ! there burst on his view something or other, he hardly knew what ; and instead of *one* lamp, there now seemed two. Still, as if charmed, he moved towards the spot ; he now gets a glimpse of the hideous mass : — “ A string of tar-barrels strung in the grass, and these two lamps to set them blazing, by George ! Now this is quite amazing.”

He raised his cane with his right hand high, and struck a blow at the monster's eye. The serpent at this gave a fearful bound, dashing the proctor far away, who exclaimed, the moment he came to the ground, “ I shall report you, sir, to-day ! Yes, sir, I 'll report you to the President ; and whether you 're student now, or resident graduate, nothing, I fear, from your fate can excuse you, and naught can redeem from the hate that pursues you.” Nor was the proctor aware in the mood potential he would himself be pursued. The Saurian rose with an

angry hiss. O, woe betide that proctor then ! he ne'er before met foe like this, and ne'er shall meet such foe again. The serpent has got him fast by the leg ;—mercy ! list to his fearful screams !—it 's vain for mercy from him to beg. Some students, nodding over their themes, start, yawn, and stretch, and relapse into dreams. The snake, however, turned to flee, — leaving the proctor, as he thought, dead, — and then climbed up in Liberty Tree, and a tract on Ichthyology read.

V.

The students, next morning, going to prayers, found the snake coiled up on the chapel stairs ; and not far off from Gore Hall, 't is said, the proctor lay quite bloody and dead, as they thought ; but when they called a doctor, they found life lingered within the proctor. To be sure, his leg was nearly bitten off, and the hand that holds the pen would ne'er look well save a glove or mitten were wrapped around it ; still,

what then *could* be *done* was *done*. Ware and Morton came from Boston the leg to shorten ; Morton gave first a dose of ether, and he's the first who ever gave it ; nor sinful man, nor woman either, had had it as they freely have it now, had not our gallant Morton, 'mid jeers and sneers, in silence wrought on, until he fairly taught the nation "there's pleasure in an amputation." Besides, in Washington, they say, Morton has fairly won the day ; in spite of this, there is a faction who blindly worship Dr. Jackson. Well, all the professors, students, and men in Cambridge fought with the serpent then ; however, his Snakeship at last got off, scrambled down street and into the tide, knocked down a shed on the college wharf, killing two men at their work inside. The serpent swims hastily down the Charles, and at every bridge he growls and snarls.

COIL VI.

Apem. "What a coil 's here!"

Timon of Athens, Act I. Scene 2.

Tit. "If the winds rage, doth not the sea wax mad,
Threatening the welkin with his big-swollen face?
And wilt thou have a reason for this coil?"

Titus Andronicus, Act III. Scene 1.

"Stands a maiden, on the morrow,
Musing by the wave-beat strand,
Half in hope and half in sorrow,
Tracing words upon the sand.
'Shall I ever then behold him
Who hath been my life so long —"

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

"And listen to the harp and horn,
And see the waltzers near and far;
The lamps and flowers are bright as yet."

N. P. WILLIS.

Trin. "A strange fish! Were I in
England now, (as once I was,) and
Had but this fish painted,

* * * There would this monster make a man."

Tempest, Act II.

"It 's nothing but a porpoise, sir, that 's been a swimming past,"
Out spoke the ancient fisherman; "now bring me my harpoon!
I 'll get into my fishing-boat, and fix the fellow soon."

O. W. HOLMES.

"These things beheld in dismay the crowd on the shore and on ship-board."

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

I.

OUT on the sea, out on the sea, the serpent is loafing lazily, wondering if poor pigmy men will dare to fight with him again, and thinking what he had better do with his precious self for the rest of the week, — wondering much if anything new has turned up at Newport, where thousands seek fashion and fun, or health and quiet, with good sea air, and good fish diet. “At all events, I’ll go down and see if the beaux and belles have forgotten me.” He arrives at Newport ; — with vast surprise he sees the *Hope* moored quietly there. At first he almost doubts his eyes ; he gave her a most amazing stare, and thought it strange that yacht should be *there*, that he meant to have sunk in the sea. Now this was the night of the fancy ball, — that dear, delightful, brilliant time ; and every one there, both great and small, had decided to make the affair sublime, — and so they did. Hark ! the strains of the Steyermarkische band arise from that gay *saloon*, while Turks and Danes, with

Jews, and Monks, and gay Paul Prys, Counts, Druids, Sybils, Lords, and Sprites, Medoras, Corsairs, Conrads, Brides, Auroras with their captive Knights, draw near. Mirth, love, and joy preside, as gathering in their pride they pour through lighted hall and corridor. O, bright are the hues of the high Alpine snows, when they flash back the sun from far up the mountain ! Refreshing and cool is the blush of the rose that bends in its purity over the fountain ; warm are the blushes that mantle the cheek of the maid, as she curbs her palfrey's proud prancing ; pure are the pearls that the sea-divers seek where the waves of the far Eastern ocean are glancing ; fair are the blossoms that brighten the trees, blue are the waters that sparkle beneath them ; sweet are the songs of the birds on the breeze ; bright gleam the sabres when heroes unsheathe them. So blushing, bright, fair, pure, gentle, and mild, came earth's fairest flowers in throngs ; and the bloom of each cheek seemed to glow with new joy as it smiled, forgetful of sadness, care, sor-

row, and gloom. As they moved through the dance, in their warm beauty blushing, their eyes sparkled bright as a moonlight-tipped wave, while the laugh and the song, so rich in its gushing, was richer than gem in old earth's deepest cave. Forbes sighed as he gazed, and, lost in admiration, he deemed it might be some deep magical spell that had stole o'er his spirits in gentle gradation, — how he feared it would vanish words never can tell. If they spoke, their dear words (will beaux ever forget them?) fell harmonious and sweet from each musical tongue, while their lips, and the pearls that so radiantly lit them, breathed soft as the harp by angel hands strung. O, tell us where else are nymphs so enchanting? What scenes from the past can fond memory call, that like these the day-dreams of belles are still haunting, when in fancy they float through the gay Newport ball? One lady from the "Empire State," with yellow jacket, cap, and boots, with mirthful eye, and air elate, the palm with many a belle disputes. Another, from those "clas-

sic shades ” where knowledge bursts spontaneous forth, outshines in beauty all the maids that gather from the wealthy North.

Here Love with Night and Morning came, with Shepherds, Gypsies, Nuns, and Princes, to light in every breast a flame, that, burning brightly, soon convinces Soldiers, Sailors, *Cavalieros*, that Love can vanquish even heroes.

They were dancing merrily there, when the serpent came and looked in at the casement ; he never had before seen aught so fair. He was struck at once with a wild amazement, and declared he never could understand how they got up such splendid affairs on land, and vowed that a very costly beaver he ’d send to-morrow to Mr. Weaver. At that window, beneath the shade of the curtain, two lovers, a Knight and a Gypsy, sat ; that lovers like such nooks is certain, — if you please, see “ The Fable for Critics ” for that ; — and it ’s equally true that a cosy chat is vastly more agreeable and pleasant when there ’s no disagreeable third party present. They supposed,

of course, they were quite alone, — as much alone as a couple can be where some eight or nine hundred people are thrown together for mirth and revelry. They heard the bugle's call, — the tone that bids hurrying waltzers gather fast ; but still they chose to sit alone, nor cared for the dancers flitting past. They were talking of happy hours gone by, and of happy days in years to come, when they saw through the glass a flaming eye, that struck them at once with terror dumb. He came through the window ; the Gypsy and Knight screamed as they ran in terror away. Some of the ladies fainted with fright, while others thought it “ part of the play ” ; for they knew that De Jonge was so cunning and clever he could get up a snake, or the deuce, or whatever strange costume you liked or wanted to wear ; but they never once dreamed the *Sea-Serpent* was there. However, when something like five hundred feet had uncoiled through the window, they felt slightly queer, and decided the costume was far more complete than anything else they had met

with this year. The serpent immediately saw with surprise, that they thought it was only a clever disguise ; so he stepped up and asked a young Venus to dance ; but she swooned, and was borne from the hall in a trance. At this there arose a most awful commotion ; some jumped out of windows, some vanished through doors ; the snake now wishes himself back in the ocean, and sincerely the loss of his partner deploras. One man, who had come in his no-top wagon, in the dress of the Knight who fought with the Dragon, drove off with speed from the coming fray, and was never seen more, — so the gossips say ; — something caught him alone on the road, and the horse went off with a lighter load. Meanwhile, a fearful fight went on ; — officers rushed for their pistols ; others, including many a Duke and Don, rushed to their sweethearts or their mothers. Shot, and shouts of wild dismay, usurped the place of mirth and laughter ; the serpent flees as best he may, while all of Newport follows after. This was a regu-

lar break-neck chase. "The devil take the hindmost" now, was still the cry ; but, in this race, the serpent, who had caused the row, decided he would quite reverse the maxim, — so he swiftly wheeled, and caught the *first* ; and what was worse, the fog and night so far concealed the snake, that those who were rushing on to catch him very soon were caught, and quickly eaten one by one. The crowd behind them only thought that they had vanished in the gloom, nor knew they of their living tomb.

On came the crowd with cheer and shout ; but they saw the serpent stand at bay, and quickly they faced to the right about, and ran as fast the other way. The serpent did not care to pursue them ; he only meant with his looks to subdue them ; so he quietly turned to that wave-washed beach, and in less than a minute was out of their reach.

II.

After the ball there are very few stay, when it's really fairly over, although I would rather

advise them to, for then you truly "live in clover." The servants, having less to do, devote themselves with zeal to you; and, besides the usual loaves and fishes, you get the best of the nicest dishes. Therefore, if wise, you had better stay; it's only the snobs that go away next morning, or the next day after, unless, perhaps, a bill, or draft, or note, that's been for some months due, you're obliged to pay next day at two, — then go; protested notes are matters that very rarely bother beaux. They pay their tailors and their hatters, — but how they do it no one knows.

"Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,
Last eve in beauty's circle proudly gay;
The midnight brought the signal-sound of strife,
The morn the marshalling in arms, — the day"

saw twenty yachts go dashing down the bay,
while far behind fair Newport's towers lay.

Out on the sea, out on the sea, the fleet is
dashing merrily. All had decided at once to

go with Hunt in pursuit of the common foe ; he has command ; Forbes and Prince — haggard and sad with grim despair — are with him. They have been brothers since they lost their loves in that sad affair at Nahant, and now they are going there.

They arrived ; and as the fleet drew near, Miss Percy descried Hunt's signal-flag, and hurried off at once to the pier ; while many a group, on cliff and crag, — with fluttering dress and gypsy bonnets, and parasols that shaded brows worthy of even Petrarch's sonnets, the dread of bucks and hostile cows, — stood with their streaming shawls and veils, and courted, with their beaux, the gales. Just then, with "sail and signal spread," a gallant ship, with crowded deck, before the freshening breezes fled, unmindful of the storm or wreck. They were bound for the glittering land of gold, where our western summits kiss the sky ; and they loudly sang, as they onward rolled, this song to a popular melody : —

CALIFORNIA SONG.

I.

WE sail, — our gallant vessel
Careers before the blast,
Yet “ swifter than the thoughts of love ”
Come visions of the past.
Fast, fast thy shores, New England,
Are fading through our tears,
Yet warm the lovely landscape
That busy memory rears.

CHORUS.

Pledge, brothers, pledge,
While, circled hand in hand,
We swear that our good bark shall bear
True patriots to that strand.

II.

No, not to found an empire
We seek our Western strand ;
When we spy its piercing mountains,
We but hail our native land ;

For there our banner waveth,
And we only seek to bind
Another link of union
With the *thirty* here entwined.

III.

Can *we* give up the glory
Our valiant fathers gave,
When they sought on Plymouth's holy rock
A refuge from the wave ?
Long kept they faith with England,
And many sorrows bore ;
For O, they loved their " father land,"
That distant, happy shore.

IV.

No, dreamers of ambition,
Who " go with hearts elate
To build another empire,
To found another State,"
Ye little know the workings
Of the stern New England mind,

If ye hope to see the people
To your busy schemes resigned.

V.

“To found another empire,” —
Ah ! but it still shall be
An offshoot of the parent stem,
A scion of the tree ;
To set another brilliant
In the azure of our flag,
That long shall float in splendor
From shore and lofty crag.

VI.

Avaunt ! ye idle dreamers,
Who think that men must be
Divided by a river,
Or embittered by a sea !
We will teach the world a lesson
That *we freemen* ne'er forget ;
Howe'er asunder driven,
We're a band of brothers yet.

CHORUS.

Pledge, brothers, pledge,
While, circled hand in hand,
We swear that our good bark shall bear
True patriots to that strand.

On sped the ship, — the song was o'er, as Hunt and his party reached the shore. Mine host was delighted, of course, to see such hosts of brilliant company. Yet dance nor revel, mirth nor song, nor aught that cheers life's gloomy way, nor love that binds with fetters strong, could "bribe them for delay." Sue Forbes may vainly tune her lute, Miss Percy bid them stay ; for Hunt declares, — and none dispute the will that all obey, — that when the dawn shall gild the east the signal will be given, and every yacht must sail at least by six or half-past seven. For they have heard that in the bay of Gloucester the serpent is, and they must sail at once away ; their hope of him so fervent is, that, though Sue Forbes would gladly keep Prince with the beaux

that throng her, his heart is on the raging deep, nor dares he linger longer. So swiftly from her glancing eyes Love's hurtling arrows shoot, you love, although your tongue denies to plead the tender suit. So Prince admired; still surprise and sorrow kept him mute.

III.

Sue Forbes, although it's out of date to keep an album, kept one, from which she learned that cruel fate might rend all hearts except one heart, and that of course was hers; *that* never should be broken, until *hot* Hottentots wear furs, or truth by beaux be spoken.

This album then, with playful air, she gave at once to Prince; he took it with an absent stare, that truly would convince the merest looker-on that he was wrapt in gloomy reverie. He was her brother's truest friend, she was her brother's only sister; she begged that he would condescend (and how could Prince resist her?) to write her something ere he sailed; nor need

I say that Sue prevailed. That night, as in his lonely room he sat, preparing for the morrow, his brow forgot its usual gloom, his mind forgot its usual sorrow ; — he looks upon the waning moon, he gazes on the heaving deep ; then takes with trembling hand his pen, and writes these lines while others sleep.

TO YOU.

I.

FORGETFUL and forgetting

As the hearts of men may be,

No heart, without regretting,

Could for ever part from thee.

Deem not, that, in redeeming

A promise made by me,

I shine of my own beaming,

For the light is caught from thee.

II.

The hidden art of hiding

Within the glittering glass

Fair tints, that, still abiding,
Detain us as we pass,
Is lost ; but ah ! the losing
Is of little loss to you, —
Each mirror of your choosing
Reflects a warmer hue.

III.

Reflected and reflective,
Through life in beauty go,
And may each gay perspective
Some more brilliant vista show.

Next morning, at the break of day, the signal-gun was duly fired, and every yacht got under way. The wind blew fresh, and all desired to be at Gloucester by noon, — and so they were. Just off the port, and with their glasses, very soon they saw the windmill, and the fort. Here, as the breeze more gently blew, at Hunt's command, some yachts laid to, while some stood off and on, to see and hunt his Snakeship's Majesty. At

Gloucester the sons of Mars received that day a Boston phalanx ; they much admired the hardy tars, and much of time was lost in gay pranks : the morning had been passed in shooting at targets on the ocean floating, and o'er their chowder were disputing these gallant soldiers, whether boating, sailing, gunning, walking, riding, or what, that gives brave young men pleasure, had best be done ; and each, deciding as suited best his time and leisure, had settled what he 'd like to do, and each resolved to " put it through." Their camp was just upon the cliff that rises just beyond the beach ; and if you have not been there, — if you wish to go, — you soon can reach it by walking or by driving ; — the breeze you have there is reviving. There, tent, and flag, and glittering gun, and well-stacked muskets standing nigh, proclaim their martial duties done, — save where the sentries silently pace, with firm step, their weary round, to guard this jolly camping-ground.

IV.

Meanwhile, the yachts were standing on, when, bearing down from Ten-Pound Island, they saw (the breeze was nearly gone) a sight that made some sigh for dry land. It was the serpent, fiercely raging. On he came, with mighty strength ; you 'd hardly call his air engaging, if you should see him at full length. On he came ; Hunt's orders ran swift through the fleet and o'er the waters, — “ The world expects no valiant man will ever give that monster quarters.” Each yacht for action clears her deck ; Hunt gets his best bow-chasers ready ; he thinks a little grape might check his Snake-ship, if both true and steady. Like Bragg, the iron shower they pour, and give him still “ a little more.” See, from the Hope a smoky wreath is curling round her arrowy prow, and gleams the flashing fire beneath ; the ball is fairly opened now ! Just o'er his head those grape-shot swept, and one just grazed him near his mane ; — at this in terror up he leapt, some

sixty feet ; with calm disdain he gazed on this array of yachts ; but while he stood there, still and shining, there came at least some fifteen shots, that taught him there was more design in man than he had lately thought of, nor was he yet to be made naught of. Round and through him shot and ball hissed, and he hissed back, then, growling, plunged into the sea, while all the ocean trembled with his howling. Then, O, then, you should have seen, how thronging round him from below his courtiers came, while some fifteen thousand serpents made a show of grinning heads, and flashing tails, wild, tossing manes, and hideous eyes ! — the sight o'er every doubt prevails, and fills Hunt's party with surprise. However, nobly they stand to their guns, and blaze away hotly left and right ; for they know full well, that he who runs will never hear the last of the fight. Bloody then grew the water there ; many a serpent bites the ocean ; while one old tar was heard to swear, that he before had " had no

notion, that there were half so many snakes at sea," — then, hitching up his trousers, the very best of aim he takes, and nearly kills two jolly rousers. Where all fought well, it's hard to say who fought the best ; but no one knew who aimed the shot, so fierce the fray, that cut one serpent right in two. One yacht was very hard beset by forty serpents all together ; and ere two salts had time to bet or guess how she the storm would weather, the yacht was over in the water, while blushed the waves with mutual slaughter. Hunt, Forbes, and Prince were fighting hard, when they observed this new disaster. Hunt saw for guns they'd no regard, and so he thought he'd try if castor would drive them to their depths below, and therefore ordered all on board to leave their guns, and quickly throw this drug, which he with care had stored, into the waves ; — his men obey, and, swifter than the god of day, the serpents stream like light away.

V.

The soldiers still were at their chowder, and with them were their wives and mothers ; they heard the guns and smelt the powder ; but, thinking that their Gloucester brothers a grand salute for them were firing, they sat, and ate with zeal untiring. It chanced now that our wounded snake, hit by a spent ball on the head, that, for the moment, seemed to make him careless how or where he fled, came like an arrow to the spot, uncalled, as comes the bride in Zampa, and, rushing right among the lot, produced a most prodigious scamper. With head high raised, and bristling mane, and open jaws that spouted foam, and angry eyes that gleamed with pain, and tail that lashed his ocean home, with rushing bound he left the sea, and plunged among the company ! Children, soldiers, maids, and men, mothers, sweethearts, all pell-mell, ran as they ne'er ran till then ; some, stumbling in their hurry, fell ; while some, transfixed with silent terror, sat still, — nor ere they



much in error, because his Snakeship, passing these, pushed madly after those that ran ; the sentinels the moment seize, and, taking aim as Yankees can, they fire, and hit him near the eye, and blind him so he cannot see ; now 't is the serpent's turn to fly from soldiers who no longer flee. He turns to fly, — but, eyesight gone, and smarting still with many a wound, cut up with shot, on land, forlorn, he writhed with rage along the ground. Meanwhile, the soldiers bravely form between him and the rocky shore, and from their blazing ranks a storm of well-aimed bullets swiftly pour. From the camp their cannon, blazing, rain upon him shot and ball ; — oft they hit him ; — his amazing strength seems conqueror over all. Onward to the shore he charges, borne by instinct or by chance ; — every heart with fear enlarges, lest they lose him ; — they advance, and boldly with their swords attack him, and stab, and pierce, and hew, and hack him ! Onward to the cliff he drags his body ; — weaker seems he now ; —

steepest there of all the crags 't is ; he is just upon its brow. Down he plunges towards the main, where he ne'er shall swim again ; for, half on sea and half on land, he dies upon that rocky strand. " Victory ! " the soldiers scream ; — loud their shout is echoed back from where Hunt's pennons gayly stream ; for he has watched their fierce attack. Then all the fleet sent men to see and measure their late enemy. They found that he was near six hundred feet in length, and quite as large round as any hogshead ; much they wondered, — but here they heard an angry sound of many men disputing loudly ; for all who have been in the fight claim, and assert their claim right proudly, that all shall have an equal right to share the proceeds of the capture ; and blows occurred. But Hunt proposes a plan which all receive with rapture ; it is, that they should just count noses, and choose at once a smart committee, and they would settle it of course ; — (they settle all things now ;) — 't is fit three heads should rule, in-

stead of force. 'T is done ; the chairman makes report, to end dispute and further clamor, " It 's been decided by the court to bring his Snake-ship to the hammer, and sell him to the highest bidder, and share the proceeds here, directly." Now this seemed fair, and all consider about his worth most circumspectly. Prince bid him off for a cool thousand, — had him stuffed, ('t was the first one done,) — shipped him, — safely arrived at Cowes, and sent him up for show to London.

VI.

When they heard the news in Boston, they rang the bells a week ; and the people were so jolly there, that they could hardly speak of aught beside the fact, that *he*, the *serpent*, had been caught, and wondered who that Prince might be, who had the monster bought ; — because, you know, the Boston folks — as well as all the nation — mark, learn, read, well digest the man who makes a " speculation " !

But hold, — we gallop on too fast. This *was done*; but at Nabant the yachts next day their anchors cast, returned in triumph from their jaunt. With booming gun and martial strain, they wake the echoes there again, while all crowd round to hail and see the gainers of this victory. One yacht was gone, alas! — and they who manned her in that desperate fight, the young, the true, the brave, the gay, were not forgotten there that night; they “cry, remembrance saddening o’er each brow, How had the brave who fell exulted *now*!”

That evening, it was marked by all, Sue Forbes was gayer than before, for Prince was there to grace the ball; but, ere that brilliant ball was o’er, they wandered to a balcony that overhung the moon-lit sea. Albert Prince in truth was sad, but still “not without hope his sorrow”; for Sue Forbes’ smile was ever glad, and sober men full often borrow love from girls with auburn tresses, and pay them — after — their addresses.

Dick Forbes observed the fair Miss Bell received him with some slight confusion. Ah, Love, thy deeds 't were vain to tell!—but I have come to this conclusion: the saddest hearts within thy snares are often taken unawares.

VII.

Next morning, Hunt went up to town, and with him went a jovial party;—he only followed his renown,—his friends there gave a welcome hearty. And, I am told, some six months later, say about Christmas or New Year, an *artiste*, who knows how to cater for all our brilliant *soirées* here, was seen, one morn, on Beacon Street, to enter at a mansion splendid, where all the world, that eve, would greet three brides,—which twice three hundred men did. “And all went merry as a marriage bell”; but who they were 't is yours to guess, for I must bid these rhymes farewell. Yet may I venture to transgress on patience long since gone, to say, that when the dark and

gloomy night has ushered in *your* wedding-day, O, may it be calm, clear, and bright, with no Sea-Serpent to invade and bear away the heart's best treasure! In sea-side cot or rural glade, O, may you live a life of pleasure, as truly as our heroes three lived with their brides in harmony!

NOTES.

NOTE 1. (PAGE 2.)

PONTOPPIDAN, a bishop of Bergen, in Norway, who wrote in the year 1751, says, page 195, sec. 4 : — “ The See-Ormen, the sea-snake, *serpens marinus magnus*, called by some in this country the Aaale-Tuft, is a wonderful and terrible sea-monster, which extremely deserves to be taken notice of by those who are curious to look into the works of the Creator. This creature keeps himself in the bottom of the sea, except in July and August. In all my inquiries about these affairs, I have hardly spoken with any intelligent person, born in the manor of Norland, who was not able to give a pertinent answer and strong assurance of the existence of this fish. And some of our North-traders, who come here every year with their merchandise, think it a very strange question, when they are seriously asked if there is any such creature ; they think it as ridiculous as if the question was seriously put to them, whether there be such fish as eel or cod.”

NOTE 2. (PAGE 5.)

“ In Ullands parish there is a lake of a middling size, which is said to have in it these snakes ; and the lake Store Mios, in Hedemarken, is long and deep enough for the largest ships.

“ Ol. Magnus, Lib. XXI. Cap. xvii., Petr. Undalinus, in his description of Norway, Cap. vii. p. 36, and John Ramus, P.

III. p. 82, affirm, that there are quantities of large snakes in these waters, one of which was seen to reach from Oens Land to Konge Landet ; this I'll leave on their authority, and only observe, that, if it is true, the relation is mixed with fables, witchcraft, and omens, which should be exploded.

" The sea-snake's appearance, they say, prognosticates some important incident to the country ; — this is idle. Of the same fabulous kind is, without doubt, the aforesaid first author's relation, L. XXI. c. xvii., of a snake that was found near Bergen, 200 feet long, and 20 thick, which, in the night, left his hole in the rock, to go out and devour the farmer's calves and sheep ; — he might as well have said cows and horses. Of such monsters on land we do not pretend to know anything here ; but with respect to the great sea-snake, which is a veritable monster of the sea-kind, I shall speak particularly, when I come to the subject of the Norway sea-animals and fish. In the mean time, in the words of Ewerh. Happelius, and upon his credit, I will introduce the following relation out of the Mund. Mirab. T. III. L. I. c. xviii. ' Nicolaus Granmius, minister at Londen in Norway, gives, 16 Jan., Anno 1656, of such a serpent the following account, from the report of Gulbrandi Hougfrud, and Olaus Andersen, that they had seen, in the last autumnal inundation, a large water-serpent, or worm, in the Spæriler Sea ; and it is believed that it had been seen before in Mios, and had been hitherto hid in the river Bang. As soon as it reached the shore of this river, it proceeded on the dry land to the Spæriler Sea ; it appeared like a mighty mast, and whatever stood in its way was thrown down, even the very trees and huts ; the people were terrified by his hissing and frightful roaring ; and almost all the fish in the aforesaid sea were devoured or driven away by it. The inhabitants of Odale were so terrified at this monster, *that none would venture to go to the sea, to follow their customary fishing and wood-trade ; nor would anybody walk along the shore.* At the end of the autumn, before the waters were frozen, this monster was seen at a distance, and by its enormous size surprised everybody ; its head was as big as a hog-head, and the thickness of its body, as far as the same ap-

peared above water, was like a tun ; the length of the whole body was vast ; it reached, as far as the spectators could judge, the length of three Norway Danentrees, and rather exceeded.' This is the account. *Sit fides penes authorem.*" — PONTOPPIDAN, *Natural History of Norway*, sec. 3, p. 39.

NOTE 3. (PAGE 6.)

The first verse, being translated literally, runs thus : (the other three verses are from the same poem :) —

"The great sea-snake's the subject of my verse ;
For, though my eyes have never yet beheld him,
Nor ever shall desire the hideous sight,
Yet many accounts of men of truth unstained,
Whose every word I firmly do believe,
Show it to be a very frightful monster.

"When Julius enters in his princely state,
And Sol turns back in his aerial course,
Then does this hideous monster first appear.
It's said that such is the pernicious nature,
Of this dire snake, that every boat he sees
He first pursues, and then attempts to sink.

"Immense his size, enormous is his bulk ;
Which by the experience may be plainly shown
Of those that have beheld this frightful monster.
When on the sea he lies, stretched at his length,
He seems a hundred loads ; — so vast his bulk !

"Methinks he seems another Behemoth,
Or the Leviathan, who doth despise
All arms, as swords, and guns, and glittering spears ;
For iron is to him like straw or flax,
And copper like the twigs that bend or break :
For thus he is described in sacred writ."

PETER DASS's *Description of Norland*, (as early as 1751.)

I add here a little poem, written by a young lady of Gloucester October 1, 1817. The description of the monster agrees in some points with that given by Pontoppidan and Dass. I am indebted to a gentleman of Cambridge for his kindness in furnishing me with the original manuscript.

The farmers in Norway think that the serpent is fond of sheep, and that he comes on shore after them. There are farmers in Maine and Massachusetts, who are firm in the belief that he comes on shore, though they never caught him sheep-stealing; but even this dark trait in his character is more than hinted at in the poem.

"The Serpent answereth Jonathan with great civility, but with little poetry.

"By mortals I never was questioned before;
 All tremble with fear on the sea and the shore,
 And dare not intrude;
 So bold are the Yankees, so firmly allied
 To Liberty's charter, their boast and their pride,
 That my own noble self they've boldly defied
 In frolicsome mood.

"Of my length you first ask; — 't will little exceed
 The stretch of your wisdom, the length of your head;
 My size they compare
 To a building that stands on a neighbouring hill,
 Most generally known by the name of wind-mill;
 To see my resemblance you certainly will
 To Cape Ann repair.

"You talk of my rum-casks; — I now can find out,
 Why all the inhabitants make such a rout
 With nets, guns, and darts;
 The fancied resemblance that holds the good dram
 With courage inspires every son of Cape Ann
 To catch the "Old Serpent," to fill up their can
 And enliven their hearts.

“ If your courage will venture a combat with me,
I will quickly convey you, I 'm sure, o'er the sea,
‘ Materials ’ to find ;
In Etna's vast crater, where lava is hot,
You can with great ease make a few musket-shot ;
With those, and those only, my life will be bought, —
So fate has ordained.

“ Of mutton I 'm fond ; — do you, arrogant, ask ?
You know there was Calder, Pearce, Kittredge, and Trask,
Once had a good flock ;
From their farm on the Point I now and then sweep
A dozen or two of the best of their sheep ;
But ah, the Merinoes are dead ! — they now keep
Your country's poor stock !

“ Of my home you inquire ; — d 'ye wish to make calls ?
The Maelstrom's my castle, the ocean my walls ;
Its strength would you try ?
Within a short mile, should you sail o'er my seas,
I 'll send out a pleasant, a light, friendly breeze ;
You ne'er can withstand my attraction to please,
Nor my power defy.

“ The Gloucester people must always find out,
When a stranger arrives, what he is about ;
So I must explain.
I heard your good President utter a wish
To visit Cape Ann, to eat chowder and fish,
To honor the chief and to taste of his dish ; —
I stopped with my train.

“ Within that good harbour I tarried awhile
To bask in the sunbeams of beauty's sweet smile,
To please my two aids.
I loitered a moment to gaze on the fair ;
With pleasure I own they with Eve can compare ;
But such are *their* virtues, I hardly should dare
To tempt those sweet maids.

" No 'needy adventurer,' no 'exile' am I,
 By laws or by poverty sentenced to fly ;
 But if you should tell
 That *Boney* has taken my shape and my size,
 And made his escape in a *serpent's* disguise,
 'T would be as correct as most of your lies,
 And frighten as well.

" You're jealous, I find, of the honor I give,
 Within Cape Ann harbour my herrings to drive ; —
 You want them, I see.
 And if they are 'fishermen' still, you will find
 On that island of rocks there's a charm undefined.
 The *natives* are friendly, free-hearted, and kind,
 Though cruel to me.

" Perhaps I'm the snake, by my being so large,
 That was chained to the oars of *Crowninshield's* barge ;
 Or should you declare
 That fair *Cleopatra* was wounded by me,
 To such *classical* fame I soon should agree ;
 So strangely I've altered, I hardly can see
 What likeness I bear.

" Your questions I've answered ; — and now, if you please,
 I'll finish the tour I began o'er the seas,
 In hopes I should see
 A favorite child that I lost t'other day,
 Which was shamefully murdered at Bleak Sandy Bay,
 And now Captain Beach has obtained it, they say,
 As a likeness of me.

" THE CAPE ANN MONSTER.

" *Gloucester*, Oct. 1, 1817."

NOTE 4. (PAGE 27.)

The best account we have of the great serpent of Midgard is in a work entitled "The Edda, or Ancient Icelandic (or Runic) Mythology." This book is perhaps as old as the Book

of Job, or the writings of the Prophet Isaiah. It contains the religious superstitions of the ancient Danish, Swedish, and Icelandic nations; for it shows us this great truth, that all the ancient monuments and records of these countries, all the Greek and Roman writers since the sixth century, all the Runic inscriptions, universal tradition, the popular superstitions, the names of the days, and many modes of speech still in use, unanimously depose, that, before the times of Christianity, all these parts of Europe worshipped Odin, Thor, and the gods of the Edda. It was, in fact, their Bible. The manuscript in which this early account of the Serpent appears was written by Snorro Sturleson, who, in 1215, more than six hundred years ago, rewrote the ancient Edda. This rare book was translated and printed in London, in the year 1770; and in it I find this singular story: —

“THE EDDA, XXVII. FABLE.

“Of the Journey undertaken by the God Thor, the Hercules of the Danish Gods, to go to fish for the Great Serpent.

“‘But tell,’ said Gangler; ‘did the God Thor never revenge this affront, given him by the Serpent?’

“‘‘T is well known,’ said Har, ‘though nobody has talked of it, that Thor had resolved to attack the Great Serpent, if an opportunity offered. With this view, he set out from Asgard a second time, under the form of a young boy, in order to go to the Giant Eymer. When he was got there, he besought the Giant to permit him to go aboard his bark along with him when he went a fishing. The Giant answered, that a little puny stripling, like him, could be of no use to him, but would be ready to die of cold when they should reach the high seas, whither he usually went. The God Thor assured him that he feared nothing, and asked him what bait he intended to fish with. Eymer, the Giant, bade him to look out for something. Thor went up to a herd of cattle which belonged to the Giant, and, seizing one of the oxen, tore off his head with his own hands; then returning to the

bark where Eymer was, they sat down together. Thor placed himself in the middle of the bark, and plied both his oars at once. The Giant Eymer, who rowed also at the prow, saw with surprise how swiftly Thor drove the boat forward, and told him, that, by the landmarks on the coast, he discovered that they were come to the most proper place to angle for *flat* fish. But Thor assured him that they had better go a good way further; accordingly, they continued to row on, till at length Eymer told him if they did not stop they would be in danger from the Great Serpent of Midgard. Notwithstanding this, Thor persisted in rowing further, and, spite of the Giant, was a great while before he would lay down his oars. Then taking out a fishing-line extremely strong, he fixed to it the ox's head, unwound it, and cast it into the sea. The bait reached the bottom, the Serpent greedily devoured the head, and the hook stuck fast in his palate. Immediately the pain made him move with such violence, that Thor was obliged to hold fast with both his hands by the pegs which bear against the oars; but the strong effort he was obliged to make with his whole body caused his feet to force their way through the boat, and they *went* down to the *bottom* of the sea; whilst with his hands he violently drew up the Serpent to the side of the vessel. It is impossible to express the dreadful looks that the god darted at the Serpent, whilst the monster, raising his head, spouted out venom upon him. In the mean time, the Giant Eymer, seeing, with affright, the water enter his bark on all sides, cut, with his knife, the string of his fishing-line, just as Thor was going to strike the Serpent with his mace. Upon this, the monster fell down again to the bottom of the sea; nevertheless, some add that Thor darted his mace after him, and bruised his head in the midst of the waves. But one may assert with more certainty, that he still lives in the waters. Then Thor struck the Giant a blow with his fist nigh the ear, and, throwing his head into the sea, waded afterwards on foot to land.' "

The translator thinks that this serpent is the same one that Pontoppidan has given an account of.

NOTE 5. (PAGE 29.)

A gentleman of Cambridge, of the highest respectability, whose word cannot in any way be doubted, was called by business engagements, during the winter of 1842, to pass some weeks at Damariscotta, in Maine, with one of the old residents of that town. This man, who was one of the oldest inhabitants of Damariscotta, and a very respectable farmer, told him the following story : — " I have often," said the farmer, " seen his Snakeship swimming in the bay here, and have watched him as he swam about in the arm of the sea that bounds my land towards the ocean. On going out one morning, I discovered in my mowing-field, — that is bounded on one side by this arm of the sea, and on the other by a fresh-water pond, — a wide, serpentine, slimy trail, passing directly through it towards the pond. The grass was high, and this track was so unusual in its appearance, so wide, slimy, and serpentine, that I immediately followed it in the direction of the pond. There is a stone wall running across this field, not far from the pond, and here, to my astonishment, I found at least four or five rods of this wall knocked down. I then followed on to the pond ; here I found, on its sandy shore, the sand ploughed deeply in the same serpentine track, until the track was lost in the water. I then followed back to the beach of the sea, where I found the same appearance in the sand where the animal had left the water. Now," says the farmer, " I give it as my opinion, that the animal who did this was the same monster that I have seen in the bay, in the shape and form of a serpent. I think so for three reasons: 1. The serpent had been seen in the bay, near the shore, about this time ; the track was as wide as an ordinary swath ; the grass was slimy. 2. I know of no other creature in the sea, except the serpent, who could have made such a serpentine track. 3. There is no other fish that I have met with on our coast, who could knock down four or five rods of a stone wall ; and I should think the serpent that I have seen here *could do it with ease.*"

My informant adds, that this worthy farmer believes this as firmly as he believes that the grass grows, or the rain falls ;

and that he tells the story to all strangers and others, seriously and in earnest. The author begs leave to say, that he places this story here as he heard it, and without pretending to say that it is true or not; he leaves it for the reader to decide for himself.

I will add here, however, an extract from section 3, page 38, of Pontoppidan's Natural History of Norway, which, taken in connection with this story, is at least curious:—

“The great sea-snakes I once held only for a chimera, but am now fully convinced that they are found in the North Sea, as sure as any other fish. It is said by the people who inhabit the coast, that they are not generated in the sea, but on land; and when they are grown so big that they cannot move about on the rocks, they then go into the sea, and afterwards attain their full growth. This last account I cannot persuade myself to believe, for the salt water is not agreeable to the nature of land creatures; and the sea-snake is generated, without doubt, in the sea, according to the nature of fishes, and other creatures of the ocean.

“If that be, which many of the farmers hereabout declare, that they have seen snakes of several fathoms length, or if there be truth in their accounts, who, from uncertain relations, describe the Lind Ormen, or great snake, it is most probable that creature would sooner go to fresh waters, in case its body could not move about longer on dry land.” Again, the same author says, in section 7, page 202,—“It appears that they seek their mates at a certain time of the year, in order, as it is said, to couple. For this reason, it is supposed, they follow ships and boats at those times, which probably appear to them to be creatures of their own kind. If this, which I have from the accounts of our sea-faring people, be true, then I conclude they are mistaken, who suppose that the sea-snake does not breed in the sea, but on dry land, and that it lives in rocks and woods, till it can no longer be concealed, and then betakes itself to rivers, in order to get into the sea. There are some that pretend *they have seen all this*.” In Note 2, the reader will find something on this subject. It may be proper to state here, that the foregoing evidence might lead one to sup-

pose that the report of the Linnæan Society of New England, with regard to a young serpent of a remarkable appearance, brought from Gloucester to Boston, and exhibited as the progeny of the great Sea-Serpent, might not, after all, be so far out the way; indeed, some points here would seem to confirm it; but alas! no less an Ichthyologist than Prof. Agassiz insists, that that serpent — the bones of which he has had in his own hands — was a common black snake, *with a diseased spine!*

However, there are many witnesses who testify to the fact that they have seen the Sea-Serpent on shore. (See APPENDIX.)

NOTE 6. (PAGE 45)

Captain Sturgis, of the Cutter Hamilton, informs me, that while the cutter was off Boston Light a few years since, on a calm day in midsummer, he was suddenly startled, while sitting in his cabin, by hearing a great noise on deck; he ran up, and found the men on the quarter-deck, all of them looking extremely frightened. He at once demanded the cause of the disturbance. Some exclaimed, "The cutter is going ashore, Sir!" Others said, "There is a strange monster close aboard of us forward; — a serpent, or something else." The gallant captain saw that his men were unusually alarmed, and therefore ran forward directly; he there saw something like a great snake, but only for an instant, for he dived down just as the captain reached the bow. There was an account of this published in the papers at that time, but I have been entirely unable to find it. If any editor or other person remembers seeing it, and can tell where it is, it would be exceedingly interesting to have it republished at this time. I have alluded to a fight between a sea-serpent and a whale, on the 37th page. Since that part of the story was written, I have received a letter from Hallowell, in Maine, written by a person who knew the particulars of this fight, which I shall relate here. My correspondent at Hallowell says he "mentions this affair out of mere desire to have the matter

fairly examined, and for the reason that the evidence alluded to is of a high character, and its weight can be set aside only by supposing that several persons of highly respectable character committed perjury, without any conceivable motive to induce them to do it." And of Captain West, who saw the fight, he says, — "Captain West was well known in Boston, and no doubt there are many persons living there now, who can testify to his character."

From the Boston Daily Advertiser and Repertory, of July 4, 1818.

"HALLOWELL, July 1.

"*More Evidence respecting the Sea-Serpent.* — Mr. Schmid, who makes the affidavit, of which the following is a copy, was born at Araw, in Switzerland. He has good connections, and bears the character of a man of strict veracity. His chief residence, during the thirteen years in which he has been an inhabitant of this country, has been in the Middle and Southern States.

"I, Samuel Schmid, of Philadelphia, testify and say as follows: —

"On Sunday, the 21st inst., between the hours of 5 and 6 P. M., about two or three leagues to the E. N. E. of Cape Ann, being on board the *Delia*, Captain Shubael West, on my passage from Boston to Hallowell in Maine, I saw, ahead of the vessel; a tall, white object, standing upright out of the water, which I thought might be a pillar set up for some particular purpose. I viewed it alone, therefore, seven or eight minutes, till I finally saw its upper end waving about for a short time; when, after giving a hard stroke to the water, it disappeared. In about three or four minutes, this object rose again, when I called upon various persons below in the vessel to come up and view it, which they did immediately. At this time a whale appeared spouting near it; and the object which stood up was, after a time, recognized as being the tail of some animal, and at length was concluded to be that of the noted Sea-Serpent. The tail was now seen to strike the water again several times. Both these great objects then went below the surface of the sea. In a few min-

utes, both showed themselves again, abreast of us ; but the sun lying behind both, and there being no glass at hand, our view of them grew imperfect. But soon afterwards we perceived a form, like that of a head, rising up, the parts below which seemed connected with the tail, which I had originally seen, though the intermediate body was to us invisible. The neck was curved below the head. The head was, at first, held horizontally, but afterwards assumed an oblique position, as if looking down into the water below. Some additional strokes were now made with the tail. The whale, on its side, now was in motion again, and immediately dived below, as did the serpent. Some considerable time afterwards, both animals appeared again, but at too great a distance for a perfect view of them to be had ; but the serpent made several fresh strokes, and the disturbance given to the water by strokes from the tail continued some time afterwards, though the water was not smooth.

“ The motions of these animals were rapid, and those of the serpent vigorous, the noise and agitation of the water from his strokes being great. His tail, which I have said seemed white, appeared to be flattened crosswise ; its edges also had an indented appearance, while its end was blunt. The head and neck appeared of a dark color ; and the body below the neck seemed rapidly to enlarge. I had an opportunity, soon after, to observe the masts of a vessel, which appeared abundantly smaller. The length of tail exhibited, I thought, was about twenty-five or thirty feet, and the head stood about half this height above the water. The separation between the two seemed so considerable, that it was thought our vessel might have sailed between them across the body. As the serpent was never nearer than half a mile, we could only judge of this intermediate mass by conjecture ; but it must have been very great, since the end of the tail and the head each moved without agitating the parts below them, or each other. Supposing the body to have been long like that of a snake, the total length of the animal may perhaps be estimated at one hundred feet.

“ Having lived in parts of the United States where the

former accounts given of this serpent have received little credit, I was not, at first, prepared to expect what I afterwards had the good fortune to see. I state these facts, that those who know me may be assured of them; and also that naturalists may, from the statement given, begin to have some notion of the habits of this animal.

“The whale was said to be of the humpback kind; and an unusual number of whales has, of late, been said to have been seen in Boston Bay.

“The persons on board, who became companions with me in this sight, were two sea-captains, besides Captain West, with various passengers, and the crew of the vessel. Captain West has separately made oath to a part of the above particulars.

(Signed)

“SAMUEL SCHMID.”

“KENNEBEC, ss.

“HALLOWELL, June 27, 1818.

“Then the above-named Samuel Schmid personally appeared, and made oath to the truth of the foregoing statement of facts; before me,

(Signed)

“JOHN MERRICK,

Justice of Peace.”

I would like to have Prof. Owen, or Sir Charles Lyell, tell us, if they can, to what length the largest shark was ever known to grow. They contend, that there is a rate shark in the sea, which sometimes grows to the length of thirty or forty feet. I will admit it, for the sake of argument, and even be generous enough to give them ten feet more in length, making fifty feet; and yet, even with that length, it would certainly be impossible for a shark to throw his tail out of the water twenty-five or thirty feet, and his head fifteen feet, and still leave room enough for a vessel to sail between them. This animal was at least a hundred feet in length: could it have been a shark? — On page 42, the lieutenant, talking of ice islands, says, “*where devils and foxes howled and chattered.*” I find, in “An Account of Two Voyages to New England, Anno. Dom. 1638, by John Josselyn, Gent.,” that he men-

tions seeing icebergs on the sea, with foxes and devils on them. Rather a cold place for devils; but perhaps they were of the Scandinavian breed. He might have seen seals, and taken them for something else. Such a story is mere nonsense, — a traveller's tale, fit only for romances.

NOTE 7. (PAGE 49.)

Job, xli. 9, 10: — "Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him? None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?"

NOTE 8. (PAGE 49.)

"*These Ormens of the Sea.*" Or, "these snakes of the sea"; "the Sea Ormen"; "the Sea-Snake."

The Linnæan Society of New England received the following testimony in the year 1817, with regard to these serpents leaping into vessels, from a resident of one of the islands in the Bay of Penobscot, Maine, who declared that he had often seen a marine monster of this description, which was as large as a sloop's boom, and about sixty or seventy feet long. He asserted, that, about the year 1780, as a schooner was lying at the mouth of the river, or in the bay, one of these enormous creatures leaped over it between the masts: the men ran into the hold for fright, and the weight of the serpent sunk the vessel, which was of eighteen tons burthen, "one streak," or plank. Now it is a singular fact, that the Spanish sailors, and perhaps the Spanish naturalists, as early as the year 1617, just two hundred years before the Linnæan Society of New England received this statement, and three years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, were aware of the fact that there were sea-serpents on the coast of Norway; and it would seem that they were aware that they sometimes came on board vessels in rather an unceremonious manner. At all events, Cervantes, who has amused us so often with the

laughable wit of Sancho Panza, who was the Sam Weller of the seventeenth century, gives this terrible account of the Sea-Serpent in the last romance he ever wrote, entitled, "The Troubles of Persiles and Sigismunda," and which he dedicated to his best patron, the Count De Lemos, April 19, 1617. The scene in which the Sea-Serpent is introduced is laid in the North Sea, off the coast of Norway; and it is not to be presumed that a great writer like Cervantes, with his usual fidelity to Nature, would have introduced into what he intended should be his great work this story, unless he had for it some foundation; still, if this is purely his own invention, it is certainly a wonderful coincidence that the scene is laid on the coast of Norway, where, Pontoppidan asserts, just such attacks have happened, and where the Rev. Mr. Egede saw, as he declares, "on the sixth of July, 1734, a very large and frightful sea-monster, which raised itself up so high out of the water, that its head reached above our main-top. It had a long, sharp snout, and *spouted water like a whale*, and had very broad paws. The body seemed to be covered with scales, and the skin was uneven and wrinkled, and the lower part was formed like a snake." (Egede's *Jour. of Greenland Mission*, page 6.) Now this passage from the first volume of Cervantes' work, translated, runs thus:—"I was sitting on deck, when suddenly it began to rain, not drops, but *whole sheets of water* upon the ship, in a manner that appeared as if the sea had been taken into the air and fallen upon the ship. All suddenly arose, and looked on every side, but we saw the heavens clear, and no signs of a hurricane; and those who were with me said, 'Without doubt this rain does not come from the heavens, but from the heads of those monstrous fishes they call shipwreckers; and, if so, we are in great danger of being lost. We must fire off all our artillery, and frighten them with the noise. At this, we saw raised and put into the ship a NECK like that of a TERRIBLE SERPENT, who TOOK OFF A MARINER, and swallowed him quickly, without so much as even chewing him! This was done amid the confused noise of the mariners, who did not dare to rise on their feet, for fear of being carried off by this horrid

monster. We fired off the cannon, and threw up bombs, raised all sail, and fled as from a fleet of enemies !”

I give next the statement of Pontoppidan on this subject.

“The next question,” says he, in sec. 8, page 202 of his valuable work, “is, whether they do mankind any injury, and in what manner they hurt the human species. Arndt Bernsen, in his account of the fertility of Denmark and Norway, page 308, affirms that they do; and says, that the sea-snake often sinks both men and boats. The North-traders inform me of what has frequently happened with them, namely, that the sea-snake has raised itself up, and thrown itself suddenly across a boat, and sometimes even across a vessel of some hundred tons burthen, and by its weight has sunk it down to the bottom. One of these aforesaid North-traders [who, by the way, spins a pretty tough yarn to the venerable bishop, which beats the stories of our own hardy skippers out and out] says, that he has been near enough to some of these sea-snakes (alive) to touch them with his hand, and that they sometimes will raise up their frightful heads and snap a man out of a boat, without hurting the rest. But I will not affirm this for a truth, because it is not certain that they are a beast of prey. Yet this and their enmity to mankind can be no more determined than that of the land-snake by the words of the prophet Amos, chapter ix., verses 3 and 5 : ‘And though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them.’

“It is said that these serpents fling themselves in a wide circle round a boat, so that the men are surrounded on all sides. The monster, I observed before, generally appears on the water in folds or coils; and the fishermen, from a known custom in that case, never row towards the openings, or those places where the body is not seen, but is concealed under the water; if they did, the snake would raise itself up quickly, and upset the boat. On the contrary, they row full against the highest part that is visible, which makes the snake dive immediately; and thus they are released from their fears. This is their method when they cannot avoid them; but

when they see one of these awful creatures at a distance, they row away with all their might (by which they sometimes injure their health) towards the shore, or into a creek, where it cannot follow them."

NOTE 9. (PAGE 50.)

"When they are far from land, it would be in vain to attempt to row away from them; for these creatures shoot through the water like an arrow out of a bow, seeking constantly the coldest places. In this case they lie upon their oars, and throw anything that comes to hand at them. If it be but a scuttle, or any light thing, so they be touched, they generally plunge into the water or take another course. Of late, our fishermen have found the way, in the warm summer months, of providing themselves with castor, which they always carry with them when they go far out to sea; they shut it up in a hole in the stern, and if at any time they are particularly apprehensive of meeting with the sea-snake, they throw a little of it overboard; for by frequent experience they know of a certainty that it always avoids this drug. In the remote parts of Norway, according to some accounts, people have been poisoned with the excrements of the Sea-Serpent, which is often seen, especially in Norland, in the summer months, floating on the water like a fat slime. This viscid mater is supposed by our fishermen to be something thrown up by them, or else their sperm, or some humor or other. If a fisherman finds this matter near his net, and inadvertently lets any of it touch his hand, it will occasion a painful swelling and inflammation, which has often proved so dangerous as to require an amputation of the limb." — PONTOPPIDAN, *Natural History of Norway*, sec. 8, p. 203.

Now to confirm this, here is an extract from the Boston Daily Advertiser of August 10, 1818. The Sea-Serpent has been seen farther south than Winyaw, S. C.

"PHENOMENON.—Some accounts which we have just received from our friends, who are sojourning for the summer in the immediate neighbourhood of the ocean, are at once so singular in themselves, and respectable as to their sources, that we have no hesitation in laying them before the public. It is stated that as well our whole seaboard as the waters which bound and intersect it are at present strewed with carcasses of fish. Not only the kinds which are usually caught there are seen in great variety and immense abundance, but some species are occasionally found with which our fishing gentry have never before had an acquaintance. The appearances thus presented are at once interesting and mournful. Although the fish are in general, when met with, perfectly dead, this is not always the case; and when those who still retain signs of life are from motives of curiosity thrown again from the shore into deep water, the only use they appear to make of their remaining powers of muscular action is to escape from the element for which nature designed them, and to regain the beach from which they have been cast. About three weeks ago, five or six large fish, of the whale species, were discovered dead upon the beach, within a few miles of the entrance of our harbour. This unusual occurrence excited much surprise at the time, and it is more than probable that it was produced by the same cause which is now operating so fatally upon the lesser fish. With regard to what this cause is, much difference of opinion will doubtless exist. It is remarked that the surface of the sea is frequently coated over with an extraneous substance of a dark and oily appearance. The existence of these two phenomena at the same time forms the belief that they are in some way connected with each other. We will submit them, however, to the curiosity of those who have enjoyed better opportunities than we have of informing themselves on such subjects, after venturing to support the only explanation that has happened to occur to us. For the last six weeks the wind has blown, with little or no change, and almost without intermission, from the southward and westward. The consequence is known to be that a strong and steady current has for some

time past been setting along the coast to the northward and eastward. May not the action of this current (which is believed to be without example) have had an effect to *bare* the copper banks that have been ascertained to abound in the more southern latitudes? And if so, may not the increased exposure of these banks have imparted to the 'watery deep' the poisonous substance it seems to bear upon its 'mountain wave?' — *Winyaw Intelligencer*, 29th inst."

On page 50, I say, "*aqua vitæ and castor they threw in the wave.*" *Aqua vitæ* may do, but I should have said *assa-fœtida*; for Pontoppidan says, sec. 8, page 204, — "An eminent apothecary here has informed me, that, instead of castor, our fishermen provide themselves with nothing but *assa-fœtida*; for if what they carry have but a strong smell, it has the same effect upon those sea-snakes: besides, *assa-fœtida* comes at a lower price than castor."

NOTE 10. (PAGE 58.)

The Devil-Fish is one of the ugliest fishes in the sea. At this dinner party given by the Serpent, I have endeavoured to introduce only such fish as are the most hostile to each other. We sometimes see queerly assorted dinner parties on land; those, however, are not *usually* intentional. The sharks, not belonging to the aristocratic circle in which the Serpent circulates, were not invited. The Wolf-Fish, as its name implies, eats everything it can get. And in Storer's Report of the Fishes of Massachusetts, page 69, I find that "this ferocious species is captured about rocky ledges at all seasons of the year," and that "its hideous appearance renders it an object of disgust." In the same work, speaking of the sea-devil, page 71, the author says: "A perfect specimen of this loathsome-looking fish was brought me," &c.; and in page 72 of the same work, he further says: "That it sometimes seizes large and powerful fishes we learn from Pennant, who says it is so highly regarded by the fishermen on the coast of Scarborough, being supposed by them to be a great

enemy of the *Dog-Fish*, that it is set at liberty whenever taken; and he adds in a note, 'the bodies of these fierce and voracious fish are often found in the stomach of the fishing-frog, or sea-devil.' "

From the *Christian Register*, Boston, 1823, I take the following:—

"NATURAL CURIOSITY.—On Thursday, the 14th inst., two very large fish were seen off the Cape of Delaware, and ten boats, manned with forty persons, went in pursuit. After much exertion they succeeded in taking them, when they proved to be what are commonly called *Devil-Fish*. A male, the smaller of the two, was skinned, and the skin sent to New York. A vessel was chartered to bring the female to Philadelphia entire.

"This enormous fish weighed, when caught, *three thousand pounds*, and measures twelve feet in length and fifteen in breadth.—*Delaware Watchman*."

THE DOG-FISH.—Storer says, on page 188 of his valuable work on fishes, that this fish "feeds upon the offal and garbage thrown upon the bottoms by the fishermen." I have therefore placed him under the table. The Kraken are presumed to be a fabulous sort of fish, and are said to grow to the length of two or three miles. Old whalers think, if there is such a fish, that the whales feed on it; they call it the *Squid*.

NOTE 11. (PAGE 63.)

"*My squids here will make you some excellent sport.*" The Squid (the Indian *Remora*, or Sucking-Fish,) is found in Boston Bay. (See "*Storer's Fishes of Massachusetts*," page 153.)

In a book on fishes, printed in Dublin, Ireland, in 1820, I find the following account: "The Indians of Jamaica and Cuba formerly used the Sucking-Fish in the catching of other fishes, somewhat in the same manner as hawks are em-

ployed by a falconer in seining birds. They kept them for the purpose, and had them regularly fed. The owner, on a calm morning, would carry one of them out to sea, secured to his canoe by a small, but strong line, many fathoms in length; and the moment the creature saw a fish in the water, though at a great distance, it would dart away with the swiftness of an arrow, and soon fasten upon it. The Indian, in the mean time, loosened and let go the line, which was provided with a buoy that kept on the surface of the sea, and marked the course the Sucking-Fish had taken; and he pursued it in his canoe, until he perceived his game to be nearly exhausted and run down. He then, taking up the buoy, gradually drew the line towards the shore, the Sucking-Fish still adhering with so inflexible a tenacity to his prey as not easily to be removed. Oviedo says he has known turtle to be taken by this mode, of a bulk and weight that no man could support."

NOTE 12. (PAGE 65.)

"*Since he told me I out-Gorgoned Gorgon, my brother.*" &c. It is surprising to find on what intimate terms the hotel-keepers are with the Sea-Serpent. They are not only acquainted with him, but it would seem, from this letter, that they know all his family, and his distant connections besides; for I find, on the authority of Pindar, that "when Jason started after the golden fleece, he found [as have many of our own enterprising citizens, who have gone on a like errand to California] that there were some difficulties to be overcome. For when he, after taming the bulls that guarded it, [that were in the habit of breathing fire from their nostrils,] demanded of *Æetes* the fleece agreeably to his promise, he met with a threatening refusal. *Medæa*, however, assisted him, with her incantations, to lay asleep the dragon that guarded the fleece, and thus at length he effected his purpose. This dragon [like a Scotchman, was certainly blessed with a pedigree; for he] is said to have been the offspring of *Typhon* and *Echidna*, the daughter of *Styx*, and to have been the brother

of Gorgon [an ancient individual not much celebrated for beauty], Cerberus, Scylla, Chimera, also the Theban Sphinx, the Hydra of Lerna, and the SERPENT of the Hesperides. PINDAR describes him as being equal in bulk to a galley of fifty oars,—about the size of a Cape Cod chebacco-boat of twenty or thirty tons. I have taken the liberty of making this dragon brother to the Sea-Serpent.

NOTE 13. (PAGE 65.)

“Cape May, and the Pool,” &c. It was my intention, at first, to have had the Sea-Serpent pay a visit to both these places ; but, on more careful examination, I was not able to find any authority to show that he had ever been seen at either place, and therefore thought the story would be more true to nature by keeping him in his old haunts.

The Pool (better known, perhaps, as Winter Harbour) is a deep and safe harbour, near the mouth of the Saco River, and about nine miles from the two flourishing towns of Saco and Biddeford, Maine. The harbour at the mouth is literally only a stone's throw across, yet within it the largest man-of-war can ride at anchor in safety. In storms, there are often a hundred sail of vessels driven to this port for shelter. There is room enough for a large fleet to lie there in safety. This place is the Nahant of Maine ; for there is a fine beach, with the wide ocean on one side, and on the other the quiet water of this wonderful harbour. There is a good hotel, pleasant rides, good sea-bathing, and plenty of game ; indeed, I can speak from experience with regard to the shooting there, and must declare, that better sport cannot be had anywhere in New England than at the Pool. It is greatly resorted to by the inhabitants of Biddeford and Saco, and within the last few years by many strangers from other States. It only requires to be known, to become a very popular watering-place.

THE THIRTY-SECOND FABLE OF THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS.

{From the Ancient Icelandic, or Runic, Mythology, nearly as long ago as the time of Isaiah.}

GANGLER then inquired, "What can you tell me concerning that day?" Har replied: "There are very many and very notable circumstances which I can impart to you. In the first place will come the grand, the 'desolating' Winter, during which the snow will fall from the four corners of the world; the frost will be very severe; the tempest violent and dangerous; and the sun will withdraw his beams. Three such winters shall pass away, without being softened by one summer. Then will happen such things as may well be called prodigies. The wolf *Fenris* will devour the sun; a severe loss will it be found by mankind. Another monster will carry off the moon, and render her totally useless; the stars shall fly away and vanish from the heavens; the earth and the mountains shall be seen violently agitated; the trees torn up from the earth by the roots; the tottering hills to tumble headlong from their foundations; all the chains and irons of the prisons to be broken and dashed in pieces. Then is the wolf *Fenris* let loose; the sea rushes impetu-

ly over the earth, because the Great Serpent, changed into a spectre, gains the shore. The ship *Nagelfara* is set afloat: this vessel is constructed of the nails of dead men; for which reason great care should be taken not to die with unpared nails; for he who dies so, supplies materials towards the building of that vessel, which Gods and men will wish were finished as late as possible. The giant *Rymer* is the pilot of this vessel, which the sea, breaking over its banks, wafts along with it. The wolf *Fenris*, advancing, opens his enormous mouth; his lower jaw reaches to the earth, and his upper jaw to the heavens, and would reach still farther, were space itself found to admit of it. The burning fire flashes out from his eyes and nostrils. The Great Serpent vomits forth floods of poison, which overwhelm the air and the waters. This terrible monster places himself by the side of the wolf. In this confusion the heaven shall cleave asunder; and by this breach the Genii of Fire enter on horseback. *Surtur* is at their head: before and behind him sparkles a bright, glowing fire. His sword outshines the sun itself. The army of these Genii, passing on horseback over the bridge of heaven, break it in pieces: thence they direct their course to a plain, where they are joined by the wolf *Fenris* and the Great Serpent. Thither also repair *Loke* and the giant *Rymer*, and with them all the giants of the Frost, who follow *Loke* even to death. The Genii of Fire march first in battle array, forming a most brilliant squadron on this plain, which is a hundred degrees square on every side. During these prodigies, *Heimdall*, the door-keeper of the Gods, rises up; he violently sounds his clanging trumpet to awaken the Gods, who instantly assemble. Then *Odin* repairs to the fountain of *Misnis* to consult what he ought to do, he and his army. The great Ash Tree of *Ydrasil* is shaken; nor is anything in heaven or earth ex-

empt from danger. The Gods are clad in armour; *Odin* puts on his golden helmet and his resplendent cuirass; he grasps his sword, and marches directly against the wolf *Fenris*. He has *Thor* at his side; but this God cannot assist him, for he himself fights with the Great Serpent. *Frey* encounters *Surtur*, and terrible blows are exchanged on both sides, till *Frey* is beat down; and he owes his defeat to his having formerly given his sword to his attendant, *Skyrner*. That day also is let loose the dog named Garmr, who had hitherto been chained at the entrance of a cavern. He is a monster dreadful even to the Gods; he attacks *Tyr*, and they kill each other. *Thor* beats down the Great Serpent to the earth; but at the same time, recoiling back nine steps, he falls dead upon the spot, suffocated with floods of venom which the Serpent vomits forth upon him. *Odin* is devoured by the wolf *Fenris*. At the same instant *Vidar* advances, and pressing down the monster's lower jaw with his foot, seizes the other with his hand, and thus tears and rends him till he dies. *Loke* and *Heimdall* fight, and mutually kill each other. After that *Surtur* darts fire and flame over all the earth; the whole world is presently consumed."

APPENDIX.

LETTERS AND FACTS.

I SHALL endeavour, in this division of our subject, to give only the best authenticated facts with regard to this monster, and only those letters that are entirely worthy of our respect and confidence, both from the high reputation that their authors enjoy, and also from the fact, that these men, who appear to testify, are the very men who, in our courts, would command, from their position and their practical knowledge, the greatest attention.

The writer of an article in the Westminster Review, who seems to have no doubt in his own mind as to the existence of this animal, says, with great truth : —

“ It seems to us that the witnesses called on behalf of the Sea-Serpent afford the very best evidence that could be wished. The majority of our professors and curators would not know a whale from a porpoise, a porpoise from a shark, a shark from an ichthyosaurus, if they beheld these creatures in their native element ; it is when beasts are stuffed with straw, or reduced to skeletons, or when fragments of their bones are placed under the compound microscope, that the knowledge of them among these *savans* begins and ends ; but the mariner, the whaler, the harpooner, the porpoise-shooter, the practical fisherman, — these know the creatures of the deep from each other, and can pronounce with wonderful

exactitude if they see but the smallest portion above the water ; they are the men whose sight is sharpened by use, whose book is nature, whose knowledge is practical, and whose evidence on such a subject is far better than any other. The men ' who go down to the sea in ships ' are they of whom we must inquire its wonders. They, indeed, may see a school of porpoises following each other, head to tail ; they may watch their gambols, and haply single out a big one for a trial of the harpoon or the rifle ; but no seaman would mistake them for anything else.

" In all our inquiries, we must have regard to the capacity of a witness for giving information. Even the microscope, the secret-revealing implement of the learned, requires a kind of education on the part of the beholder. Doubtless the mariner, who first peeped through the wonder-working tube, would arrive at conclusions as erroneous as the learned fool who comments on the creatures of the deep ; but he surely would not venture to print his blunders, or pass off his crude observations as worthy the attention of the world. And yet our *savans* are for ever doing this, and for ever giving opinions on subjects which they cannot understand ; promulgating hypotheses founded on imagined facts ; drawing ideal pictures of nature, and reasoning on them as truths ; throwing aside realities for fictions ; and hermetically sealing their eyes, and closing their ears, against the entrance of information, because information itself is supposed to clash with preconceived opinions, to interfere with hypotheses to which they are pledged, and, in fine, to damage their claim to the exclusive disposal of scientific knowledge : their object is to represent all matters as *they would have them*, without any reference to what *they are*."

The following letter of Louis Agassiz, LL. D., Professor of Zoölogy and Geology in the Lawrence Scientific School of the University at Cambridge, together with part of a lecture delivered in Philadelphia during the last winter, is at least evidence that this distinguished *savant* does not keep his eyes "hermetically sealed," or his ears closed "against the entrance of information."

"DEAR SIR: — I return my thanks for the papers communicated about the existence of the so-called Sea-Serpent. Though I am not at all disposed to endorse all the reports current upon this animal, from the evidence I have received I can no longer doubt the existence of some large marine reptile allied to Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus, yet unknown to naturalists. The facts mentioned to me by eye-witnesses have led me into an investigation of the probable relations of the great Sea-Monster, and I have recently expressed my opinion upon this subject in connection with other matters, in a lecture delivered in Philadelphia last winter, of which I inclose a report, of which you may make any use you please. The general character of this continent, with its paleozoic types still alive, renders this supposition very probable.

"With high regard,

"Respectfully yours,

"L. AGASSIZ.

"Cambridge, 15 June, 1849."

EXTRACT FROM THE THIRTEENTH LECTURE OF PROFESSOR AGASSIZ, DELIVERED IN PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 20TH, 1849.

"There is satisfactory evidence, that, during the deposition of the lowest strata, there were no exten-

sive continents. Indeed, there are, in the coal strata of Great Britain, France, and other countries, indications of there having been groups of small islands, gradually increasing by successive deposits, and combining to form continents. In what is usually called the *Old World*, there are no indications of large islands in the earliest periods. *America*, so far from being a *New World*, is the oldest continent. Even before the deposition of the coal, North America had nearly its present outline,—the coal basins being great inland seas; while it is probable, that, at this time, the whole of the *Old World* was only a group of small islands.

“A number of interesting facts have been ascertained in regard to the animals and plants which exist in different portions of the globe; these differing considerably, according to their latitude and longitude. In the arctic regions of Asia, Europe, and America, there is an astonishing uniformity in the plants and animals. As we proceed toward the temperate zone, there is a greater diversity. In the tropics, we find the animals and plants of different countries to be entirely of a different character; and as we proceed towards the southern pole, we do not find that they resume their uniformity. We find also various countries characterized by peculiar species of animals as well as plants; a very remarkable peculiarity in this distribution is the fact that both the animals and plants now found in this country are related to those belonging to earlier geological periods of Europe. The walnut, cypress, and other trees of this country, are only found in a fossil state in Europe. Among animals also, the snapping-turtle, the large frogs and salamanders of this country occur only as fossils in Europe. Again, the genus of fish called *Lepidostas*, of which the gar-pike found in America is a species, does not resemble the recent European fossils, but those

of the old Oolitic period. These facts indicate that this continent has not undergone the same successive changes as the Old World. There the changes are comparatively recent, and the upheaving of mountains and formation of valleys have put an end to many animals of which we find living representatives on the continent of North America.

“ Among the fossils of Europe of the period during which the gar-pike existed there, and when the Ichthyosauri and Plesiosaurs existed also, there were also sharks with flat teeth, such as are found now on the south-west coast of New Holland. I have asked myself, in connection with this subject, whether there is not such an animal as the Sea-Serpent. There are many who will doubt the existence of such a creature until it can be brought under the dissecting-knife ; but it has been seen by so many on whom we may rely, that it is wrong to doubt any longer. The truth is, however, that if a naturalist had to sketch the outlines of an Ichthyosaurus or Plesiosaurus from the remains we have of them, he would make a drawing very similar to the Sea-Serpent as it has been described. There is reason to think that the parts are soft and perishable, but I still consider it probable that it will be the good fortune of some person on the coast of Norway or North America to find a living representative of this type of reptile, which is thought to have died out.”

The following extract from a letter from one of the most distinguished merchants of Boston is worthy of the highest consideration : —

“ Boston, April 26, 1849.

“ I have never had any doubt of the existence of the *Sea-Serpent* since the morning he was seen off Nahant by old Martial Prince, through his famous mast-head spy-glass. For, within the next two hours, I conversed with Mr. Samuel Cabot, and Mr. Daniel

P. Parker, I think, and one or more persons beside, who had spent a part of that morning in witnessing its movements. In addition, Col. Harris, the commander at Fort Independence, told me that the creature had been seen by a number of his soldiers while standing sentry in the early dawn, some time before this show at Nahant; and Col. Harris believed it as firmly as though the creature were drawn up before us in State Street, where we then were.

"I again say, I have never, from that day to this, had a doubt of the *Sea-Serpent's existence*. The revival of the stories will bring out many facts that will place the matter before our people in such a light as will make them *as much ashamed* to doubt, *as they formerly were* to believe in its existence.

"Yours truly,

"AMOS LAWRENCE."

Before giving any more letters or facts on this subject, I wish to introduce one or two passages from the Bible, where the word *leviathan* occurs, about which theologians and naturalists have had so many warm discussions. I shall therefore begin with the Book of Job; for, says Bishop Lowth, "that the Book of Job is the most ancient of all the sacred books is, I think, manifest by the subject, the language, the general character, and even from the obscurity of the work. It savours altogether of the antique, insomuch that whosoever would suppose it written after the Babylonish captivity would fall little short of the error of Hardoijn, who ascribed the golden verses of Virgil and Horace to the iron age of monkish pedantry and superstition." Dr. Hale supposed Job to have lived about the year 2130, B.C. Job, therefore, being the first one of the inspired writers that mentions the *leviathan*, I shall commence with him, and give afterwards the other passages where the *leviathan* is noticed in the Old Testament.

Chapter xli. 1. — “Canst thou draw out leviathan with a hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?”

Now we are very gravely assured by Townsend, in a note on the margin, that “this is a whale, or — a *whirlpool*”! What man in his right mind could ever think of drawing out a *whirlpool* with a *cord*? Who ever heard of a *whirlpool* with a *tongue*? The note goes on to say, — “The leviathan here described is, in the opinion of Bochart, the *crocodile*.” Who ever heard of a *crocodile* living in the *ocean*? But the note declares, finally, — “The description suits no other amphibious animal at present known.” Now, as I intend to make a few comments on this note, and also on this forty-first chapter of Job, I introduce it here, that all may, if they will, be convinced that a leviathan is not, *at least*, a *whirlpool*.

CHAP. XLI.

CANST thou draw out leviathan with a hook? or his tongue with a cord *which* thou lettest down?

2 Canst thou put a hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?

3 Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft *words* unto thee?

4 Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?

5 Wilt thou play with him as *with* a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens?

6 Shall thy companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants?

7 Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish-spears?

8 Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more.

9 Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not *one* be cast down even at the sight of him?

10 None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?

11 Who hath prevented me, that I should repay *him*? *whatsoever* is under the whole heaven is mine.

12 I will not conceal his parts, nor

his power, nor his comely proportion.

13 Who can discover the face of his garment? or who can come to *him* with his double bridle?

14 Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about.

15 *His scales are his pride*, shut up together *as with* a close seal.

16 One is so near to another, that no air can come between them.

17 They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered.

18 By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

19 Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out.

20 Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething-pot or caldron.

21 His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.

22 In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him.

23 The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves: they cannot be moved.

24 His heart is as firm as a stone, yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone.

25 When he raiseth up himself,

the mighty are afraid: by reason of breaking they purify themselves.

26 The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold; the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon.

27 He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood.

28 The arrow cannot make him flee; sling-stones are turned with him into stubble.

29 Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear.

30 Sharp stones are under him:

he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire.

31 He maketh the deep to boil like a pot; he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment.

32 He maketh a path to shine after him; one would think the deep to be hoary.

33 Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear.

34 He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.

And, in the first place, what is the definition of the Hebrew word *leviathan*? If you look in Gesenius's Hebrew and English Lexicon, you will find it to be as follows:—"LEVIATHAN. An animal *wreathed, gathering itself in folds.*" Here, I presume, the commentators will say, with their usual ingenuity in such cases, that perhaps this animal is of the *sheep* kind, and must therefore be *gathered in folds*. But alas for such *sheepish* commentators! the next definition would destroy their theory at once:—"LEVIATHAN. A *Serpent*, especially a large one." So Isaiah xxvii. 1: "In that day the Lord, with his sore, and great, and strong sword, shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea."

It may be said that this verse refers to the 20th chapter, 1st verse, (which see.) If so, then this serpent of the sea *is indeed* (what I have long suspected might be the fact) the devil. But let us go on with our definition.

"2. Spec. The crocodile, Job xli. 25, &c. 3. A sea-monster, Ps. civ. 26." I insert this passage also.

23 Man goeth forth unto his work, and to his labour, until the evening.

24 O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches;

25 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

26 There go the ships; *there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.*

27 These wait all upon thee, that thou mayst give them their meat in due season.

28 That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good.

King David, it seems, did not think it a ship, or a whirlpool. It would certainly be an interesting sight to see a whirlpool or a ship eating meat ! The definition, again, regards this passage in the sense of a cruel enemy, (as this serpent undoubtedly is far more cruel than the whale,) and refers us to Psalm lxxiv. 14, Isaiah li. 9, Ezra xxix. 3, xxxii. 2, 3. Bochart Hieroz., P. II. Lib. V. cap. xvi., xviii. Here we must pause a moment to see what Pontoppidan, the Bishop of Bergen, says with regard to these passages of Scripture, and also what is *his* opinion with regard to what Bochart says on this subject, which he gives in section 9, p. 106, of his Natural History of Norway, as follows :—

“ The supposition that the Sea-Snake answers the description of the leviathan better than any other animal yet known, and may be understood by the leviathan, or the crooked serpent (Isaiah xxvii. 1) that shall slay the dragon that is in the sea, or that it may be the long serpent mentioned in Job xxvi. 13, is not without some foundation.”

I insert here the 12th and 13th verses from that chapter.

“ He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud. By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens ; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.”

Again, Pontoppidan says, in the same place,—
 “ That it is the *Piercing-Serpent*, or the *Boom-Serpent*, (*serpens vectis*, according to some authors,) is not improbable ; for they often lie stretched out before a creek, like a boom, to block up the passage. If Bochart had had any knowledge of this creature, which is very little known anywhere but in the North, he probably would not have taken the whale to be the leviathan. ‘Cetum Hebræi iisdem nominibus appellant quibus Draconem, nempe, Thanin et Leviathan, aut ob formæ similitudinem, aut

ratione molis, et quia cetus in aquatilibus tantum præstat, quantum in reptilibus præstant virtute Dracones.' (Hierozoic, Lib. I. cap. vi. p. 45.) The similitude of shape, which writers urge betwixt the whale and the dragon, is what I cannot find out; nor can I discover how this author (whom I otherwise esteem as one of the most learned men the world ever produced) comes to say, in the same place, 'Balænam multi volunt ideo dici כרוש ברה Serpentem vectis, (Isaiah xxvii. i.) quod ab uno maris extremo ad alterum, vectis instar, attingat.' This does not at all agree with the whale, which is usually but fifty, seventy, or at most eighty feet in length; at least not near so well as with the Sea-Snake." Here Pontoppidan states that the length of the Sea-Serpent is variously estimated by fishermen, and others, to be from one hundred to two hundred feet in length, and he informs us that some fishermen think him six hundred feet long. He thinks that two or more of these snakes follow each other in a line, as they have been seen to extend to great lengths. And then he observes, further, that "what the word of God says, in the place already cited, of the leviathan, viz. that it is both a Pole-Serpent and a Crooked-Serpent, i. e. he is soon bent in a curve, and soon stretched again in a straight line, agrees perfectly with this Sea-Snake, according to what has already been said."

But I must go on with the definition. The next meaning given is, "to roll, Germ. *rollen*, to wind," &c. I also find, in a more critical lexicon, by Gulielmus Gesenius, that this word *leviathan* is defined in Latin as follows: "(Animal) flexum, in spiras convolutum. 1. serpens, &c. 2. spec. crocodilus. (Job. xl. 25, &c.) 3. quævis bellua magna aquatilis. (Ps. civ. 26.) [This passage I have already given.] Eaque pro hoste atroce. (Ps. lxxiv. 13 and 14.)" I insert these two verses also. "Thou didst divide the sea by thy

strength : thou breakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. Thou breakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, *and gavest him to be meat* to the people inhabiting the wilderness." Now it can hardly be presumed that the children of Israel were to eat either dragons, serpents, or crocodiles ; in fact, these verses cannot be taken literally, for we are referred by the commentator to the 14th chapter of Numbers, where Joshua tells the children of Israel that they shall prevail over the Hittites, the Jebusites and the Amorites, in the 9th verse. "Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land : *for they are bread for us* : their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us : fear them not." Now nobody supposes that the children of Israel were cannibals, and that they meant to eat the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites *for bread*, any more than they were to eat the crocodile, the dragon, or the leviathan *for meat*. The Bible simply means to tell us here, that the people of the land flowing with milk and honey would be destroyed by them, as the hosts of Pharaoh were destroyed in the Red Sea, or the same as the Lord broke "the heads of leviathan in pieces." But to conclude this argument, I shall insist that the leviathan cannot be a crocodile, because *crocodiles only swim in fresh water*, and the leviathan is usually mentioned as *swimming in the sea*. But commentators say that the sea means in some cases the river Nile, and, as there were plenty of crocodiles in the Nile, and the 41st chapter of Job, 30th verse, declares that the leviathan comes on shore, therefore the leviathan is a crocodile. Well, it is a comfort to find that we are no longer contending with a whale, or a whirlpool ; for I presume that it is very rare to meet with either the one or the other on shore. Commentators (even the most learned) seem to be a little in doubt as to the true meaning of this word

leviathan. The best Hebrew scholars are well aware that it means a serpent, for this is the first definition given in the Hebrew Lexicon; yet they have decided not to translate the word in the text, but to let it stand in almost the original Hebrew, that people may speculate on its true meaning, or have been satisfied by giving a note or two, sometimes filled with the most various learning, but too often so absurd as to call into play the tongue of satire, or the keen shafts of ridicule. I must tell a story in this connection, and I am done; for, driven as I am by commentators from the *sea* to the *river*, which they contend is the *sea*, and therefore decide that they must have a *leviathan* in the river also, (a wish on their part perfectly natural,) I intend to gratify them by giving them a well-authenticated serpent in a river of Egypt that will answer the description in Job far better than the crocodile.

“Diodorus Siculus, Lib. III., relates of a serpent in Egypt, sixty feet long, which, though but small in comparison of those we have been speaking of, yet was in appearance too large to be caught and carried alive to Alexandria, to be presented to King Ptolemy the Second. This great prince was eminent for his curiosity. He was desirous of seeing everything that was strange or scarce. Those that brought him elephants, or any other uncommon animals, were liberally rewarded. By this means the Greeks became acquainted with many things that were before utterly unknown to them. Such a laudable curiosity, and so noble a spirit in a king, to reward all those that contributed to please and instruct him, prevailed upon a company of hunters to attempt to *bring him the aforesaid great serpent, which LIVED CHIEFLY in the WATER, but strayed ashore from its proper element* a considerable distance every day, to make a prey of the farmers' cattle for his subsistence. Their first attack, which was very vigorous, failed, as the

historian says, and cost about twenty of them their lives ; but as the rest grew more experienced by this loss, they would not relinquish their enterprise, being in hopes of receiving a greater reward in case they should succeed. They conquered it at last, by making a large net of very strong ropes, and watching their opportunity when the creature went out in search of prey ; then they stopped up the way it usually took in its return, and made a kind of defile, through which it was obliged to pass. At the end of this they placed the net, and drove the monster into it. When they had thus secured it, they carried it to the king, who gave them a reward suited to the strangeness of the creature and the hazard of their enterprise. The serpent was saved to be a sight for strangers who visited Ptolemy's court, and had every day a large allowance of proper food." — PONTOPIDAN, *Natural History of Norway*, sec. 10, page 209.

Now may not this be the leviathan mentioned in the Book of Job ?

But I must leave this portion of my subject, and introduce here the following letter, from a gentleman who certainly had the best opportunity of judging whether this animal was a shark or a serpent, and whose testimony is of the very highest character.

"FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE SEA-SERPENT. — The following letter gives still further evidence of the existence of this animal : —

"BROOKLINE, Aug. 19, 1819.

"Dear Sir : — I very willingly comply with your request to state what I saw of the Sea-Serpent at Nahant, on Saturday last, particularly as I happened to see it under favorable circumstances to form a judgment, and to considerable advantage in point of position and distance.

"I got into my chaise about seven o'clock in the

morning, to come to Boston, and, on reaching the long beach, observed a number of people collected there, and several boats pushing off and in the offing. I was speculating on what should have occasioned so great an assemblage there without any apparent object, and finally had concluded that they were some Lynn people who were embarking in those boats on a party of pleasure to Egg Rock, or some other point.

“ ‘ I had not heard of the Sea-Serpent as being in that neighbourhood, and I had not lately paid much attention to the evidences which had been given of its existence ; the idea of this animal did not enter my mind at the moment.

“ ‘ As my curiosity was directed toward the boats, to ascertain the course they were taking, my attention was suddenly arrested by an object emerging from the water at the distance of about one hundred or one hundred and fifty yards, which gave to my mind at the first glance the idea of a horse’s head. As my eye ranged along, I perceived at a short distance eight or ten regular bunches or protuberances, and, at a short interval, three or four more. I was now satisfied that the Sea-Serpent was before me, and, after the first moment of excitement produced by the unexpected sight of so strange a monster, taxed myself to investigate his appearance as accurately as I could.

“ ‘ My first object was the head, which I satisfied myself was serpent-shaped. It was elevated about two feet from the water, and he depressed it gradually to within six or eight inches as he moved along. I could always see under his chin, which appeared to hollow underneath, or to curve downward. His motion was at that time very slow along the beach, inclining toward the shore ; he at first moved his head from side to side, as if to look about him. I did not see his eyes, though I have no doubt I could have

seen them if I had thought to attend to this. His bunches appeared to me not altogether uniform in size, and, as he moved along, some appeared to be depressed, and others brought above the surface, though I could not perceive any motion in them. My next object was to ascertain his length. For this purpose, I directed my eye to several whale-boats at about the same distance, one of which was beyond him, and, by comparing the relative length, I calculated that the distance from the animal's head to the last protuberance I had noticed would be equal to about five of those boats. I felt persuaded by this examination that he could not be less than eighty feet long; as he approached the shore and came between me and a point of land which projects from the eastern end of the beach, I had another means of satisfying myself on this point.

“After I had viewed him thus attentively for about four or five minutes, he sunk gradually into the water and disappeared; he afterwards again made his appearance for a moment at a short distance.

“My first reflection, after the animal was gone, was, that the idea I had received from the description you gave of the animal you saw at *Gloucester*, in 1817, was perfectly realized in this instance; and that I had discovered nothing which you had not before described. The most authentic testimony given of his first appearance there seemed to me remarkably correct; and I felt as if the appearance of this monster had been already familiar to me.

“After remaining some two or three hours on the beach, without again seeing him, I returned towards Nahant, and, in crossing the small beach, had another good view of him, for a longer time, but at a greater distance. At this time he moved more rapidly, causing a white foam under the chin, and a long wake, and his protuberances had a more uniform appearance. At this time he must have been seen by two

or three hundred persons on the beach and on heights each side, some of whom were very favorably situated to observe him.

“‘I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

“‘SAMUEL CABOT.

“‘COL. T. H. PERKINS.’”

SEA-SERPENT IN 1817.

Boston, August 18.

MONSTROUS SERPENT. — We have seen several letters from Gloucester, which describe a prodigious snake that has made its appearance in Cape Ann harbour. It was first seen at some distance from shore by some fishermen, ten or twelve days ago; but it was then generally believed to be the creature of the imagination, and of the family

“Of that huge snake tremendous, curled,
Whose monstrous circle girds the world.”

But he has since come within the harbour of Gloucester, and has been seen by hundreds of people. He is declared by some persons, who approached within ten or fifteen yards of him, to be sixty or seventy feet in length; round, and of the diameter of a barrel. Others state his length variously, from fifty to one hundred feet. His motions are serpentine, extremely varied, and exceedingly rapid. He turns himself completely round almost instantaneously. He sometimes darts forward with his head out of water, at the rate of a mile in three minutes, leaving a wake behind him of half a mile in length. His head, as large as the head of a horse, is shaped somewhat like that of a large dog, is raised about eight feet out of water, and is partly white, the other

part black. He appears to be full of joints, and resembles a string of buoys on a net-rope, as set in the water to catch herring. Others describe him as like a string of water-casks. His back is black. Various attempts have been made, without success, to take him. Four boats went out on Thursday, filled with adventurous sailors and experienced gunners, armed with muskets, harpoons, &c. Three muskets were discharged at him from a distance of thirty feet; two balls were thought to strike his head, but without effect. He immediately after plunged into the water, and disappeared for a short time, after which, he moved off to the outer harbour, and was seen no more that night. A number of persons are employed in making a net of cod-lines, of sufficient strength and size to take him. It is conjectured that he has resorted to this harbour for the purpose of preying upon a very numerous shoal of herrings, which have lately appeared there. If he has been instrumental, as is supposed, in driving these herring into the harbour, he has rendered an essential service to the town.

BOSTON, August 27.

THE SEA-SERPENT was seen near Ten Pound Island, in Gloucester harbour, on Saturday morning last, since which time we have received no intelligence from him. Gentlemen from Gloucester yesterday brought no news of him. The stories current yesterday respecting him were without foundation.

THE editor of the New York Gazette "gravely" affects to doubt the existence of the sea-monster on our coast. Perhaps he has yet to learn that it is as much the part of folly to doubt in the face of abundant and unquestionable evidence, as it is to listen with credulity to vague and improbable rumors.

SALEM, Aug. 20.

THE SEA-MONSTER. — The Cape Ann Sea-Monster was seen on Monday and on Tuesday morning.

By the following account, copied from a file of the Salem Gazette, printed in 1793, it appears that one at least of these extraordinary inhabitants of the deep has before appeared on our coast : —

PORTLAND, Aug. 3, 1793.

SEA-MONSTER. — Captain Crabtree, who lately arrived at Frenchman's Bay, and now in this town, gives the following extraordinary account of a Sea-Serpent, the authenticity of which may be depended on : —

“ On the 20th of June last, being on my passage from the W. Indies, in the morning, having just made Mount Desert Island, distant nearly ten leagues, I suddenly got sight of a serpent of an enormous size, swimming on the surface of the ocean, its head elevated about six or eight feet out of water, rather prone forward. That part of the body which was out of water I judged to be about the size of a barrel in circumference, but the head larger, having some resemblance of a horse's. According to the most accurate computation which I made in my mind of his length, I think it could not be less than from fifty-five to sixty feet, and perhaps longer. That part of the body which was not elevated, but of which I had a distinct view several times, was larger than the part out of water. The body of a dark brown.

“ I was within two hundred yards of it near an hour ; during which time, as it discovered no inclination to molest us, myself and the whole crew observed it with the minutest attention ; nor was its attention less fixed on us. The eyes were perfectly black, sharp and piercing. I was so near it as to observe clearly that there were no fins or external appendages

to the body, but that its motion was by the writhing of the body like other serpents. During the time it was with us, several flocks of birds flew near, which it eyed very narrowly. I observed in it the greatest agility and quickness of motion."

There is no doubt but this is one of two which have been seen in these parts. All agree respecting their size and appearance. Two of them (perhaps the same) were once seen on the shore of the Cranberry Islands, but immediately took to the water on being discovered. These are the first ever seen in our seas, that we have any account of, though they have been seen on the coast of Norway. — *Register*.

SEA-SERPENT — A party, well prepared, was to have sailed from Marblehead on Saturday morning, for the purpose of attacking this animal, which, by the last accounts, was near Kettle Island, a short distance this side of Gloucester harbour.

1818.

GLOUCESTER, Aug. 15.

A NEW INTERVIEW WITH THE SEA-SERPENT. —
A very Particular and Interesting Account. —
Having been an unbeliever of the existence of a Sea-Serpent on our coast from the time that he was first noticed to the present week, my doubts have been compelled to yield to stubborn facts, of which I was an eyewitness. Returning from Newburyport in Squam harbour, on Wednesday last, in a chebacco-boat, where we had been for the purpose of obtaining fishing bait, and having failed of getting a supply, we were in hopes of taking some on our passage; and when off Chebacco bar, it being perfectly calm, we discovered somewhat at the distance of a mile or more, which we were in hopes was a shoal of bait, making

a great agitation on the smooth surface of the water; it seemed to approach us rapidly; but as it came nearer we were convinced we had been in an error, and that what we took for a shoal of black-fish was nothing less than the bunches on the back of the celebrated SEA-SERPENT! He made directly for the boat until he came within fifty yards; he then sunk under water, and we were much alarmed lest he should rise under us, as we had no power of getting from him, we lying becalmed. When he came up he was thirty feet from us; we had then a perfect and distinct view of this monster of the deep. His head was elevated from three to five feet; the distance was about six feet from his neck to the first bunch; we counted twenty bunches, and we supposed them on an average about five feet apart, and his whole length could not be less than one hundred and twenty feet. When we first saw him, there appeared a rippling in the water, which made a noise not much unlike water running rapidly over loose pebbles; on his nearer approach, when we knew it to be the Serpent, we imagined it to proceed from his mouth, and it appeared as though he was hissing; but on his nearing still more, we found it proceeded from the ripple made by the bunches on his back. It was twelve o'clock, noon, when we saw him; the weather was clear, and the sea smooth, and no deception could have been made. His head was of a dark brown color, formed like a seal's, and shined with a glossy appearance. He seemed to be indifferent as to us, and went a steady course for Rye Beach about N. by W., and we lost sight of him at about four miles' distance. Mr. Joseph Chase, of Brunswick, N. H., and two lads, were with me in the boat, and saw him as distinctly as myself. His body was of the size of a sixty or eighty-gallon cask, his head as large as a barrel; for we could see it when he was about four miles from us. I believe he is perfectly harmless,

and might easily be caught. Nearly all the time that he was in sight, his head was elevated more or less above water. There was nothing that appeared like fins or gills. We did not discern his tail. There was a quick vibration of the parts we saw, which probably was his mode of swimming.

TIMOTHY HODGKINS.

Mr. Timothy Hodgkins, who relates the above, is about fifty years of age, has for the most part of his life followed the sea, and is entitled to credit.

Yours, W. S.

16th. — The Serpent has been seen for several hours this morning near Squam light-house, by a great many persons, some of whom were within twenty feet of him, and agree in the above description, excepting that his head nearly resembled that of a land-serpent, and when he was at rest no bunches appeared. — *Gazette*.

1819.

Boston, August 10.

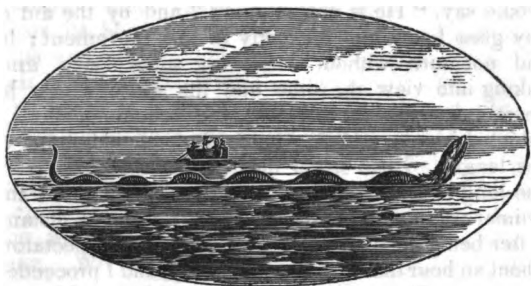
THE SEA-SERPENT. — The recent appearance of this animal at Nahant in the view of several hundreds of persons has furnished perhaps more conclusive proofs of his existence than any that have been before made public. For the satisfaction of our readers we have procured a copy of the following letter, which gives a very clear and intelligible description of his appearance and movements. We have heard verbal statements from a great number of gentlemen, all of which agree in substance with what is here related: —

COPY OF A LETTER FROM JAMES PRINCE, ESQ., MARSHAL OF THIS DISTRICT, TO THE HON. JUDGE DAVIS, DATED

NAHANT, August 16.

My dear Sir : — I presume I may have seen what is generally thought to be the Sea-Serpent. I have also seen my name inserted in the evening newspaper printed at Boston on Saturday, in a communication on this subject. For your gratification, and from a desire that my name may not sanction anything beyond what was actually presented and passed in review before me, I will now state that which, in the presence of more than two hundred other witnesses, took place near the long beach of Nahant on Saturday morning last : —

Intending to pass two or three days with my family at Nahant, we left Boston early on Saturday morning. On passing the half-way house on the Salem turnpike, Mr. Smith informed us the Sea-Serpent had been seen the evening before at Nahant beach, and that a vast number of people from Lynn had gone to the beach that morning in hopes of being gratified with a sight of him ; — this was confirmed at the hotel. I was glad to find I had brought my *famous mast-head spy-glass* with me, as it would enable me, from its form and size, to view him to advantage, if I might be so fortunate as to see him. On our arrival on the beach, we associated with a considerable collection of persons on foot and in chaises ; and very soon an animal of the fish kind made his appearance nearly in this attitude and manner : —



His head appeared about three feet out of water; I counted thirteen bunches on his back; my family thought there were fifteen. He passed three times at a moderate rate across the bay, but so fleet as to occasion a foam in the water; and my family and self, who were in a carriage, judged that he was from fifty to not more than sixty feet in length. Whether, however, the wake might not add to the appearance of his length, or whether the undulation of the water or his peculiar manner of propelling himself might not cause the appearances of protuberances, I leave for your better judgment. The first view of the animal occasioned some agitation, and the novelty perhaps prevented that precise discrimination which afterwards took place. As he swam up the bay, we and the other spectators moved on and kept nearly abreast of him; he occasionally withdrew himself under water, and the idea occurred to me that his occasionally raising his head above the level of the water was to take breath, as the time he kept under was, on an average, about eight minutes; and after being accustomed to view him, we became more composed, and his general appearance was as above delineated. Mrs. Prince and the coachman having better eyes than myself, were of great assistance to me in marking the progress of the animal; they

would say, "He is now turning," and by the aid of my glass I saw him distinctly in this movement; he did not turn without occupying some space, and, taking into view the time and the space which he found necessary for his ease and accommodation, I adopted it as a criterion to form some judgment of his length. I had seven distinct views of him from the long beach, so called, and at some of them the animal was not more than a hundred yards distant. After being on the long beach with other spectators about an hour the animal disappeared, and I proceeded on towards Nahant; but on passing the second beach, I met Mr. James Magee of Boston, with several ladies, in a carriage, prompted by curiosity to endeavour to see the animal, and we were again gratified beyond even what we saw in the other bay, which I concluded he had left in consequence of the number of boats in the offing in pursuit of him, the noise of whose oars must have disturbed him, as he appeared to us to be a harmless, timid animal. We had here more than a dozen different views of him, and each similar to the other; one, however, so near, that the coachman exclaimed, "*O, see his glistening eye!*" Thinking I might form some calculation of his length by the time and distance of each turn, and taking an angle with my two hands of the length which he exhibited, that is to say, from his head to the last protuberance, and applying the same angle to other objects, I feel satisfied of the correctness of my decision that he is sixty feet long, unless the ripple of his wake deceived me. Nor, my dear sir, do I undertake to say he was of the snake or eel kind,—though this was the general impression of my family, the spectators, and myself. Certain it is, he is a very strange animal. I have been accustomed to see whales, sharks, grampuses, porpoises, and other large fishes; but he partook of none of the appearances of either of these. The whale and the

grampus would have spouted, the shark never raises its head out of the water, and the porpoise skips and plays; neither have such appearances on their backs, or such a head as this animal. The shark, it is true, has a fin on its back, and often the fluke of his tail is out of the water; but these appendages would not display the form, and certainly not the number, of protuberances which this animal exhibited; nor is it the habit of the shark to avoid a boat. The water was extremely smooth, and the weather clear. We had been so habituated to see him, that we were cool and composed. The time occupied was from a quarter past eight to half past eleven. A cloud of witnesses, exceeding two hundred, brought together for a single purpose, were all alike satisfied and united as to appearances, and of the length and size of the animal; but you must deduct the influence which his passage through the water and the manner he propelled himself might have as to the apparent protuberances on his back, and the ripple occasioned by his motion on his real length,—of all which you can judge equally well, and better than myself. I must conclude there is a strange animal on our coast; and I have thought an unvarnished statement might be gratifying to a mind attached to the pursuit of natural science, and aid in the inquiries on a controverted question, which I know to have interested you. I have ventured on the description, being also induced to hope, that if anything of the marvellous is stated as coming from me, you will correct it.

Accept the respects and attention of,

Dear Sir, yours sincerely,

J. PRINCE.

HON. JUDGE DAVIS.

1820.

SALEM, Aug. 11.

THE SEA-SERPENT. — In our last paper we mentioned the recent appearance of the Sea-Serpent at Phillips's Beach, and at the same time stated to the public the sources of our information and the grounds of our belief. The Register, in a summary and dogmatical style, attempts to discredit our statement; our assertions are however controverted only by the authority of some anonymous "friend." But, as the public cannot be expected to pin its faith on the bold assertions of any editor or any "friend," facts only are entitled to attention.

Since our last, inquiries have again been made of the persons whom we named, and they have now confirmed by solemn depositions the statement we published. Messrs. Lewis, King, Reynolds, and Ingalls are men of intelligence and credibility; when they relate what they aver they saw, we believe them.

In the opinion of some, however, to be *incredulous* is to be *wise*. The subject, we are aware, is interesting to the public, especially to naturalists; and wishing not to trifle with what is serious, we have taken the pains to put in an authentic shape the information we have gathered, which we now publish. — *Gazette*.

I, Andrew Reynolds, of Lynn, of lawful age, depose and say, — That on Saturday, the fifth day of August, inst., about one o'clock, P. M., I discovered in the water near Phillips's Beach, at Swampscut, an animal different from any that I had ever seen before; he was lying on the surface of the water, which was at that time very smooth, and appeared to be about fifty or sixty feet long.

Jona. B. Lewis and Benj. King, who work in the same shop with me, also saw him, and we took a boat

and rowed towards him ; we approached within about thirty yards of him, and had a very distinct view of him. He had a head about two feet long, and shaped somewhat like an egg, which he carried out of the water when he was moving. There were several protuberances on his back, the highest points of which appeared to be seven or eight inches above the level of the water. He was perfectly black. When we first drew towards him, he was moving westerly from Phillips's Point, and as we drew near to him, he turned and moved to the eastward, and when we got within about thirty yards of him, he sunk under water and disappeared.

ANDREW REYNOLDS.

ESSEX, ss. August 10, 1820. — Subscribed and sworn to before

JOHN PRINCE, Jun., *Jus. Pacis*.

I, Jona. B. Lewis, of Lynn, of lawful age, depose and say, — That I went in the boat with Andrew Reynolds and Benj. King, to see the animal described by said Reynolds in his deposition, and that the description of him therein given is correct. As I was rowing, I had not so good an opportunity of viewing him as Mr. King had, who sat in the stern-sheets with his face towards him all the time.

JONA. B. LEWIS.

ESSEX, ss. August 10, 1820. — Subscribed and sworn to before

JOHN PRINCE, Jun., *Jus. Pacis*.

I, Benjamin King, of Lynn, of lawful age, depose and say, — That on Saturday, August 5th, I went out in a boat with Andrew Reynolds and Jonathan B. Lewis to see the animal described in said Reynolds's deposition. I had a perfectly good view of him, and his description of him is correct. I counted twenty-three protuberances on him distinctly visible at once ;

I judged him to be about seventy feet long. I sat in the stern of the boat, and had a better opportunity of seeing him than the others, who were rowing.

BENJAMIN KING.

ESSEX, ss. August 10, 1820. — Subscribed and sworn to before

JOHN PRINCE, Jun., *Jus. Pacis*.

I, Joseph Ingalls, of Lynn, of lawful age, depose and say, — That on Saturday, August 5th, I saw the animal described by Mr. Reynolds and the others who went with him in the boat. I saw him from my shop, which is on the water's edge; I judged him to be about twenty feet long; but when the young men returned to the shop, we had a conversation about him, and they said, that, as they drew near to him, he appeared much longer than he did when they saw him from the shop. I have no doubt that the description they have given of him is correct.

JOSEPH INGALLS.

ESSEX, ss. August 10, 1820. — Subscribed and sworn to before

JOHN PRINCE, Jun., *Jus. Pacis*.

1821.

PORTSMOUTH, August 4.

THE SEA-SERPENT. — On Thursday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, as Mr. Samuel Duncan, of Newcastle, (an inspector employed in the custom-house of this port,) was engaged in fishing near the entrance of this harbour, he saw the *Sea-Serpent* lying asleep on the water, about a quarter of a mile from Bush Island. He at first supposed it to be a large log floating on the water; but on approaching within about one hundred yards, the serpent immediately moved

with great rapidity towards the west, and approached near to Odiorne's Point. In his motion through the water, he showed five bunches at a time, about five feet apart; presenting the appearance of five porpoises following each other in a right line. He was seen distinctly, while going about a mile and a half. When he came near Odiorne's Point, he turned, and made towards the Shoals. Mr. Duncan was in a whale-boat, accompanied by his son, about eighteen years old, and by Mr. Jonathan Vennard, who both saw the serpent.

About six o'clock the same afternoon, Mr. Duncan was hailed by a man in another boat, who directed his attention towards the south, where he again saw the serpent about a half-mile distant, approaching the boat in which Mr. Duncan was. The serpent came directly towards the boat, and approached within forty feet of the stern; when he suddenly changed his course, and went off towards York Ledge.

Mr. Duncan is confident that the animal he saw was entirely different from any which he had ever seen before; and he represents himself to be well acquainted with the appearance of the different kinds of whales, porpoises, and sharks, as well as of *horse-mackerel*. The animal he saw had no appearance of any fins. The first time the serpent was seen, he was in sight about a half an hour, and by the rapidity of his motions appeared to be alarmed; but the second time, he continued moving in different directions, near the boat, as much as an hour.

* * * The above relation is taken from Mr. Duncan himself, who is ready, if required, to make affidavit of its truth. — *Oracle*.

[The captain of a coaster, arrived here about a week since, we were informed at the time, had seen the serpent, and was anxious to make a commu-

nication on the subject to the public; but no one thought it worth while to wait upon him to receive it, so much having been already said.]

1822.

THE SEA-SERPENT. — Several gentlemen at Nahant, on Sunday last, had a distant view of this celebrated monster of the deep, whose periodical return is now ascertained; since which he has been seen every day by different individuals of the highest respectability. He was observed this morning very distinctly; and we hear a letter has been received in town describing his appearance. — *Evening Gazette.*

1828.

SEA-SERPENT. — I, Francis Johnson, Jr., testify, that in going into the harbour from Nahant, July 12, 1823, at 9, A. M., I saw standing into Lynn harbour something in the water resembling a row of porpoises. I then supposed it to be such, and forbore to notice it. About two hours afterwards, I heard a noise in the water, and saw, about four rods distant, something resembling the head of a fish or serpent, elevated about two feet above the surface, followed by seven or eight bunches, the first about six feet from the head, all about six feet apart, and raised about six inches above the water. It stood eastwardly, at the rate of five miles an hour, with an undulating motion, like that of a caterpillar. Its color was dark, like that of a shark or porpoise. I pursued it about a mile, being in a small fishing-boat, and had a fair view of it for about thirty minutes, the water being smooth and the sky clear; and then lost sight of it, supposing it to dive beneath the surface. I believe it to be what I took for a row of

porpoises two hours before. I am about twenty years of age; was born and have always lived at Nahant; have been constantly employed in fishing; have seen every species of fish accustomed to visit our coast, but never saw anything resembling this. I have therefore constantly doubted the existence of the *Sea-Serpent*, but now firmly believe what I saw to be the animal hitherto described as such.

(Signed)

FRANCIS JOHNSON, Jr.

NAHANT, July 12, 1823.

We hereby certify, that the above statement was given in our presence; and, from our knowledge of the character of Mr. Johnson, we have no doubt of his veracity.

(Signed)

H. A. S. DEARBORN,
NATH. AMORY,
SIDNEY BARTLETT,
THOS. WHETMORE,
RICH'D D. HARRIS,
RUSSELL JARVIS.

I certify that Francis Johnson, Jr., made the same report to me, previous to his landing at Nahant.

J. S. DORR.

NAHANT, July 12, 1823.

[*Patriot*.]

THE *Sea-Serpent* was seen a few days since by three Messrs. Westons, of Duxbury, who were in a boat off our Gurnet. Their attention was first arrested by the noise of the animal in passing through the water between them and the land, and at the distance of about twenty-five or thirty rods. The head was erect about four feet, and the length appeared to them about 100 feet, sometimes contracting and then extending his body; the bunches similar in description to what has so often been given. Those who have always known the men who make this report, receive the evidence as complete for their conviction. — *Old Colony Memorial*.

1824.

Boston, Aug. 14.

THE SEA-SERPENT. — The Newburyport Herald informs us that the Sea-Serpent was seen on Wednesday last, by Mr. Ruggles, of Bristol county, who was on Plum Island beach with his family. They had a distinct view of him in different positions for more than half an hour. He came within thirty yards of them, and they had a distinct view of his head, which was shaped like an eel's, and about two feet long. When he opened his jaws, they could see his teeth, which were white, and two or three inches long. They saw parts of his body, as much as thirty feet from his head, but did not see his tail. Mr. R.'s general description of the animal is similar to that which has been repeatedly given. — *Boston Daily Advertiser and Repertory*.

THE Portsmouth Journal states that the Sea-Serpent was seen by two gentlemen of that town on Wednesday afternoon, near the Little Boar's Head, eight or ten miles from Portsmouth. His passage through the water was exceedingly swift, leaving a long wake behind.

1825.

SEA-SERPENT AT HALIFAX. — The Nova Scotian of July 27 contains a particular account, on the authority of several witnesses, of the appearance of a large Sea-Serpent in the harbour of Halifax, on the afternoon of the 15th. It was seen by a young gentleman who happened to be riding past the wharf at Mr. Goreham's tan-pit, accompanied by some ladies. He raised his head about three feet out of water; its body was the size of a large log, and ap-

peared to be at least sixty feet long, and it forced itself along by a wiggling sort of motion. It remained above water about five minutes, at a distance of about sixty yards. The editor of the Nova Scotian went to the spot, and learned these and other particulars, which were confirmed by the young gentleman, the ladies, Mr. Goreham, his family and servants. It is also confirmed, with additional particulars, by Mr. William Barry, of Halifax, who was going into the harbour the same evening in a whaling-boat, and, with the men in the boat, observed it for some time. He saw the head distinctly, and at one time eight coils of his body above water, and is persuaded that he is at least sixty feet in length. — *Boston Daily Advertiser and Repertory*.

1826.

SEA-SERPENT. — The captain and passengers of the ship Silas Richards, from Liverpool, lately arrived at New York, had sight of this monster on their passage.

[I extract a more full account of what the captain and passengers of this ship saw, from Silliman's Journal, with the remarks of the editor.]

SEA-SERPENT. — To us it seems a matter of surprise, that any person who has examined the testimony can doubt the existence of the Sea-Serpent. The documents communicated by Dr. Bigelow of Boston, and published in the second volume of this Journal, in 1820, were in our judgment alone sufficient to settle the question. The following letter is an important additional document.

“THE AMERICAN SEA-SERPENT. — The following letter respecting this huge animal was addressed to

Robert Barclay, Esq., of Bury Hill, Surrey, by Mr. Warburton, a gentleman belonging to the house of Barclay, Brothers, & Co., London. That gentleman, proceeding on his passage to America, on board the *Silas Richards*, Captain Holdridge, had an opportunity of beholding this sea-monster, on Friday, the 16th of June, off St. George's Banks.

“ ‘PENTONVILLE, 20th Sept. 1826.

“ ‘*Dear Sir* : — Having been informed by your grandson, Mr. Robert Reynolds, that you were desirous of possessing a sketch of the Sea-Serpent as seen by me in crossing the Atlantic, and to have some account of the same, in compliance with your wishes, I have annexed a rough pencil drawing of the monster, as it appeared during the time when its head was elevated above the water, and I shall state the particulars attending this novel exhibition.

“ ‘The captain and myself were standing on the starboard side of the vessel, looking over the bulwark, and remarking how perfectly smooth was the surface of the sea. It was about half-past six o'clock, P. M., and a cloudless sky. On a sudden we heard a rushing in the water ahead of the ship. At first we imagined it to be a whale spouting; and turning to the quarter from whence the sound proceeded, we observed the serpent in the position as it appears in the sketch, slowly approaching at more than the rate of two miles an hour, in a straight direction. I suppose we were hardly going through the water so fast, for there was scarcely a breath of wind. I must premise, that I never had heard of the existence of such an animal. I instantly exclaimed, ‘*Why, there is a sea-snake!*’ ‘That is the Sea-Serpent!’ exclaimed the captain; ‘and I would give my ship and cargo to catch the monster.’ I immediately called to the passengers, who were all down below; but only five or six came up, among whom was Miss Magee, the daughter of a merchant in New York. The re-

mainder refused to come up, saying there had been too many hoaxes of that kind already. I was too eager to stand parleying with them, and I returned to the captain. In the same slow style the serpent passed the vessel at about the distance of fifty yards from us, neither turning his head to the right nor left. As soon as his head had reached the stern of the vessel, he gradually laid it down in a horizontal position with his body, and floated along like the mast of a vessel. That there was upwards of sixty feet visible is clearly shown by the circumstance, that the length of the ship was upwards of one hundred and twenty feet, and at the time his head was off the stern, the other end (as much as was above the surface) had not passed the main-mast. The time we saw him, as described in the drawing, was two minutes and a half. After he had declined his head, we saw him for about twenty minutes ahead, floating like an enormous log of timber. His motion in the water was meandering like that of an eel, and the wake left behind was like that occasioned by the passing of small craft through the water. We had but one harpoon on board, and the ship's long-boat was, for the time being, converted into a cow-house. We had two guns on board, but no ball.

“Two days after we saw him, he was seen by another vessel off Cape Cod, about two hundred miles from where he made his appearance to us. This intelligence reached New York about four days after we arrived there, and the description given exactly corresponded with the foregoing. I dined one day at the hotel of New York with Sir Isaac Coffin, who discredited the existence of such an animal, which was reported to have been seen by Capt. Bennet, of Boston, about five years back ; but, as I assured him I had never heard, previously, even the report of such a monster, and that I was an *English-*

man, he gave full credit to it. The sketch I gave him corresponded with the description that was circulated at that time. The humps on the back resembled in size and shape those of the dromedary.

“ ‘ I remain, dear sir, yours respectfully,

“ ‘ WM. WARBURTON.’ ”

[*National Gazette of Philadelphia.*

1827.

SEA-SERPENT AGAIN. — Captain Coleman, of the sloop *Levant*, on his passage from Nantucket to Hartford, Conn., saw, off Gay head, on Sunday morning, 29th ult., a singular animal in the sea, which he judged to be the great contemporaneous Sea-Serpent.

he captain's description corresponds in most of its parts with those heretofore published, and is vouched by several individuals, all of whom, with him, had a distinct view of the monster. We are told by the Nantucket Inquirer, that Capt. C.'s veracity is indisputable, and that he is no way prone to the marvellous, but on the contrary a downright matter-of-fact person.

On the whole, there is no longer any reason to doubt that some huge oddity from the wastes of the ocean is now haunting our waters ; and the grand point is, how he is to be caught and boxed up for inspection. This will prove a business of no small difficulty and peril. Our word for it, the man that undertakes to put salt on his tail will have ample occasion for repentance. He will find that it requires two to make a bargain at sea as well as on land. This Monsieur Traveller is no youngster ; and *we* (for one) had rather draw teeth from the heaviest white bear in Spitzbergen, than to attempt any personal familiarities with his Highness. However, the harpooners of the East are adventurous fellows, and

there is no knowing what they *may* do, at last. Should they, in fact, succeed in taking him, he will prove the most lucrative prize they have yet brought ashore.

SEA-SERPENT WOUNDED. — Capt. David Thurlo, Jr., of schooner *Lydia* of Deer Isle, when about six leagues E. S. E. from Mount Desert Rock, left his vessel on the 24th inst., in his boat, to try for mackerel, when a monster of the serpent kind appeared, and came alongside his boat; he having a harpoon in his boat, threw it at him, which took effect, and he ran off with the boat in tow; after running a short distance, he stopped and rose his head out of water six or seven feet; he started again, the warp parted, and the serpent made off with the harpoon in his body. Capt. Thurlo then resumed his fishing, when all at once the serpent came again very near them; Capt. Thurlo then rowed for his vessel, which was about three miles' distance. The serpent then rose his head out of the water as before, and continued following them at about the same distance from the boat till they reached the vessel. Capt. Thurlo thinks there were two of them, and that the one he harpooned was not the one that followed him to the vessel. They were seventy or eighty feet long, dark-colored, and had large scales. Capt. Thurlo had the most perfect view of his head when he rose out of the water, and states that it resembled exactly that of a shark. — *New York Statesman*.

[I pass over the years 1828, 1829, and 1830, to the year 1831.]

1831.

THE SEA-SERPENT — ONCE MORE! — We do not know but that we must give in to the existence of his snaky majesty, which has been so often vouched by

the most respectable witnesses, that (the speculations of some naturalists to the contrary notwithstanding) it hardly seemed possible to doubt it. Almost every season, rumor is alive about his appearance in some bay, cove, or channel, down east and "along shore"; and the story comes accredited by the most positive declarations of the most trustworthy people. On Saturday last, it seems, he made his second appearance this season off Boar's Head, Hampton Beach. His exhibition was witnessed by eight or ten spectators, one of whom, a gentleman of our acquaintance, on the carefulness of whose observation we implicitly rely, gives an account of his appearance, which resembles those already furnished of this strange sea-monster. He says that he was distinctly observed at a distance of three or four hundred yards, and appeared to be about one hundred and fifty feet in length. He was dark in color, and presented a number of protuberances along his back, thirty or forty of which were counted. These protuberances appeared to be a foot in size. Near his head appeared what resembled a horn or fin. The view was distinct, and continued fifteen minutes, while the animal coursed slowly along parallel to the beach. That these appearances were presented by one and the same animal, our informant has no doubt whatever. When first observed, the animal was making for the beach, and having arrived at a certain point, suddenly turned, and with a continuity of motion which could not have been occasioned by a shoal of fish. The impressions received by our informants were nearly those of every gentleman present; all of whom are willing to attest to their belief in the facts substantially as above stated. — *Newburyport Herald*.

SEA-SERPENT AGAIN.—This animal seems to be peculiarly attached to Boothbay harbour; and no wonder,—for it is a very pleasant harbour, and one

of the finest *watering-places* on the coast of Maine. His Snakeship paid another friendly visit here on Sunday before last, as we are informed by Capt. Walden, of the United States Revenue Cutter Detector. The cutter was at anchor in the harbour, and the officers and crew all had a fair view of the leviathan of the deep as he boomed along in the neighbourhood of the light-house. They judged him to be over a hundred feet in length. They sent a boat to reconnoitre, but his snakish majesty appeared to dislike their impertinence, and wheeled and marched off with as much dignity as a bashaw with three tails.

Whether he was attempting to smuggle something ashore in that neighbourhood, and felt a little shy of the cutter's long nines, or whether he was fearful the United States boys might take him to Washington and compel him to beard the lion in his den, could not be certainly ascertained.— *Portland Courier*.

1834.

SEA-SERPENT.—In the vicinity of Cape Rosier, near Castine, Me., a Sea-Serpent was seen for several days during the first fortnight in July, by a large number of credible persons. When seen in the morning, he usually carried his head about twelve feet above water; but in the afternoon his head was not so much elevated. His rate when passing through the water was sometimes incredibly rapid, leaving a long "wake" behind. In one instance, he was seen at a distance by the crew of a fishing-schooner off Cape Rosier, three of whom got into a boat and rowed towards him. When they had proceeded some distance from the vessel, he came directly towards them, boldly; and after approaching within a rod, with his head elevated, he went below the surface, and passed

under the boat, being in plain sight as he passed. Two of the men had muskets loaded, which they pointed at him as he approached ; but his appearance was so formidable, they thought it prudent not to fire unless he attacked them. He appeared to them, and to others, who saw him at different times, to be about sixty feet long ; and hence it may be inferred that there are several of these animals on our coast, as the serpent seen in this neighbourhood has been often estimated by good judges to be nearly twice the length of that seen near Cape Rosier.

• Another man who was taking fish out of the meshes of a net at the Cape, observed some disturbance in the water, and soon after ascertained that the Sea-Serpent was helping himself at the other end of the net. Not liking his company, the man hastily withdrew.

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